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Rabat says its diplomats held

RABAT (R) — The staff of Morocco's embassy in Kuwait being held "hostage" after being taken from the embassy to Baghdad, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. It said in a statement the diplomats were prevented from entering the embassy building Saturday, threatened with firearms and ordered to leave for Baghdad. On arrival in Baghdad, the Iraqi authorities told them they could not leave Iraq because they had lost their diplomatic immunity. "This means they have become hostages like numerous other foreign residents who are not allowed to leave Iraq," the ministry statement said. Officials said there were four diplomats at the embassy in Kuwait and about 12 local staff and their dependents. The ambassador, Abdul Wahed Ben Messaoud, was away from Kuwait. The ministry said Iraq refused to close the embassy and ordered its diplomats to remain at their post. "Morocco considers its embassy in Kuwait still open, in conformity with international law and principles, and decisions of the Arab League and the Security Council," the Foreign Ministry statement said.

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Bush touts his Gulf crisis policy

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush lobbied for political support of his Gulf military buildup Tuesday, interrupting a holiday to brief congressional leaders who wanted to know how much Americans must sacrifice in the fight against Iraq. "Let me be clear about my commitment to work with Congress (in this crisis) and let no one abroad doubt our unity or our staying power," Bush said in opening remarks to a group of congressional leaders gathered at the White House. He said his objective was to force Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait "without further violence." But he added that the main elements of his backup military strategy were now in place and asserted that, for instance, Iraqi supply lines through the Aqaba were now cut off. Bush took two days out of his extended seashore holiday to fly to Washington first and foremost for Tuesday briefings with scores of influential members of Congress including the leaders of foreign affairs and military committees. He extolled the early results of the multinational, U.N.-backed — but largely U.S.-staffed — naval blockade and military buildup in the Gulf region.

Qasem returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem returned home Tuesday at the end of a tour which took him to China, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where he delivered messages to the leaders of these countries. Qasem Tuesday delivered a message from King Hussein to UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan and briefed him on Jordan's position vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis, stressing that Jordan wants an Arab solution to the problem, excluding any foreign military intervention in the region.

Cabinet approves UNICEF assistance

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet met under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Massa'adeh and endorsed a plan of cooperation between the Health Ministry and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Under the programme, UNICEF will provide the ministry with cash assistance totalling JD 2.5 million to support the ministry's projects in the fields of immunisation, control of diarrhoeal diseases, acute respiratory infections, maternal and child care and prevention of disabilities.

18,094 arrive

AMMAN (Petra) — The number of who arrived in Jordan through Al Ruweished border point during the last 24 hours totalled 18,094, including 6,039 Egyptians, 3,658 Indians, 2,953 Bangladeshis, 1,711 Thais, 1,101 Filipinos, 558 Syrians, 344 Pakistanis and 305 Lebanese. Also arriving in Jordan by air were 357 people. Ministry of Interior Secretary General Saleh Hamud, chairman of a special committee formed to look after the evacuation process, said that a total of 52,639 transients were in Jordan. The figure includes 13,683 Bangladeshis, 8,382 Indians, 5,000 Yemenis, 3,222 Pakistanis, 1,477 Sri Lankans, 1,310 Filipinos and 8,500 Egyptians.

Jackson arrives

AMMAN (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson, en route to Iraq to interview President Saddam Hussein, said Tuesday that he hoped to help keep adversaries talking to avoid war in the Middle East. "If (leaders) keep talking and keep leading the worst scenario can be avoided," he told reporters. "It is better when people talk, talk rather than fight, fight, fight." Jackson was to fly to Baghdad Wednesday for the U.S. television show "Inside Edition." He planned to see Saddam, senior officials and also American and other foreigners held in Iraq. He said his journalistic mission, asking "the relevant and tough questions," would help inform Americans about the Gulf crisis. "We must, at this stage in history, be sufficiently civilised and mature not to run down the price of oil — and run up the price of oil," Jackson said. In Amman, Jackson was to meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Share prices rise

AMMAN (J.T.) — Contrary to all expectations in Amman Financial Market (AFM) share prices Monday witnessed an upsurge, with a large turnout of dealers while shareholders did not offer their shares for sale in anticipation of another rise in share prices. The rise in share prices did not exceed two per cent since it is the allowed percentage for maximum rise or decline in share prices in a single day. This ceiling is meant to slow down decline in share prices, but the opposite happened Monday when it limited rise in prices. According to AFM dealers this rise was a counter effect for the 20 to 30 per cent drop in share prices which took place after Iraq took over Kuwait Aug. 2. The rise in share prices can be considered a reflection for change in expectations after Iraq started showing more confident and diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis. The dealers in the market believe the prospect of the war is now less possible than before.

Saddam: Foreign women, children free to leave

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein said Tuesday that all foreign women and children in Iraq were free to leave the country, the Iraq News Agency (INA) said.

The announcement came after Saddam approved television shows with several foreign families held back by Iraq offered to debate the crisis with U.S. President George Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

INA said it issued a decree "that women and children who are fathers in Iraq are allowed to leave Iraq or to travel wherever they want starting tomorrow, including the families of hostages."

INA quota spokesman for Iraq's ruling Baath Party Command Council (RCC) said the president's decision followed his meeting Tuesday with foreign families.

"After President Saddam Hussein met with foreign families and was acquainted with their condition, and he been deeply affected by desire expressed by some of them to have the freedom of leaving... he ordered all children and women — the freedom of staying or leaving, including families which national council decided to, effective tomorrow, Wednesday, Aug. 29," the spokesman said.

Iranrops bonshell at OEC

VIENNA — Iran demanded Tuesday the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) lift oil production increases taken measures to use petroleum to alleviate shortages by the Gulf crisis.

Iranian minister Gholamreza Azgar OPEC talks in Vienna, to discuss conference he was doing an unprecedented meeting of the group and set a Paris-based oil watchdog International Energy Agency (IEA).

He said would formally propose the OPEC talks during a Wednesday. A major OPEC has already decided in favour of an immediate increase in production. But it poses that and its bombshell may complicate efforts to conclude an accord.

Delegates said earlier the oil minister ready by a majority of three to let heavyweights led by Saudi Arabia Venezuela raise volume mandatory quotas for production of the crisis.

He reiterated that Iraq's purpose in preventing some foreigners from leaving had been "humanitarian reasons, to prevent the outbreak of war."

The Iraqi president's meeting with several foreign families was shown on Iraqi Television and broadcast by the U.S.-based Cable News Network (CNN). In its report on the meeting, the Iraqi News Agency said Saddam also ordered that one unidentified British family be allowed to return home, "as a

generous gesture" for their daughter Rachel's birthday.

It was not immediately clear what countries the foreigners were from, or when and where the meeting occurred.

The Iraqi leader said he sympathised with the foreigners' plight, but repeated that their presence was needed to prevent an attack.

British and U.S. officials say Iraq has moved more than 150

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Baghdad to order tit-for-tat expulsion

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iraq has informed the United States that it will expel several Americans from the U.S. embassy in Baghdad in response to the U.S. decision to oust 36 Iraqi envoys, officials said Tuesday.

In addition to kicking out an unspecified number of Americans, Iraq has told the U.S. embassy in Baghdad that it will place restrictions on embassy funds. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said.

Meanwhile, 36 Iraqi envoys face a Thursday deadline to leave the country, targets of what the State Department calls a measured response to almost a month of "blatant" Iraqi misbehaviour. A U.S. diplomatic message was delivered to Iraqi Ambassador Mohammad Al Mashat Monday afternoon, serving notice that the affected diplomats must be gone within 72 hours.

The move was in retaliation for a series of Iraqi actions, especially the "illegal order" for the closure of the U.S. embassy in Kuwait. Tutwiler said.

The department also restricted the remaining Iraqi diplomats here to a radius of 40 kilometres from the Iraqi embassy in Washington. It said all Iraqi diplomatic visas will be switched to single entry from multiple entry. Procedures for approving visa applications from private Iraqi citizens also will be tightened.

Iraq declares Kuwait as its 19th province

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ PROCLAIMED Kuwait on Tuesday as its 19th province and told the West that the Iraq-Kuwait merger announced earlier this month was an Arab issue that could not be discussed with the West.

But Baghdad was prepared to open talks with Washington on the huge U.S. military buildup in Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait "has become Iraq's 19th province and there is no discussing this," Iraqi Information Director Najib Al Hadithi told France Infos radio station in a telephone interview.

"Kuwait is an inter-Arab issue, a matter for the Arab League, it is no foreigner's business," Hadithi said.

Baghdad, resisting a Western military buildup and United Nations calls to withdraw its forces, made Kuwait a province Monday and renamed its capital Kadhimia.

Hadithi said many Saudi believed U.S. forces were in their country to protect oil industry

interests rather than deter an Iraqi attack.

"The problem is now the presence of U.S. forces in the area and we are prepared to (have a) dialogue with anybody, including the United States, but this has nothing to do with Kuwait," he said.

Hadithi said Iraq could feed its 18 million people and would not be swayed by a trade embargo imposed by the United Nations.

"If the embargo was conceived as a weapon to crush and strangle Iraq, it won't work. It could work anywhere else but in Iraq," he said.

He said Iraq was self-sufficient in vegetables and fruits, produced a big crop of dates and a large part of its rice and grain needs.

"Our people are content with simple food," he said.

Presidential decrees published in Baghdad Tuesday said a few kilometres of Kuwait were detached from the new province and made part of the southern

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Yemen, PLO pledge Arab solution to Gulf crisis

SANAA (Agencies) — Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Tuesday pledged to work together to seek an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, Raido Sanaa reported.

It said the pledge was made during talks between Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who flew from Baghdad after meeting Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

The two leaders affirmed... to continue efforts to find a peaceful solution within the Arab framework and thus... avoid the catastrophe of military confrontation," the radio said.

Both Yemen and the PLO have criticised Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait but denounced the build-up of U.S. and foreign forces in the Gulf.

"No-one in the region would escape the destructive consequences" of hostilities in the Gulf," the radio said.

Arafat has been shuttle between Arab capitals to promote a peace plan calling for the withdrawal of Iraqi and foreign forces

and their replacement with Arab troops while Arab leaders work out a solution to the crisis.

Arafat, who arrived in Baghdad Saturday with Yasser Abed Rabbo, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, made his proposals in meetings with senior Iraqi officials, according to sources.

Later Monday Saddam met with Arafat but there was no word on whether Saddam responded to the proposal or if Arafat made his proposal directly to the president.

The Iraqi News Agency reported, "There was total agreement to fight against the American presence in the region."

Before the meeting, Abed Rabbo was quoted by the news agency as saying that the Palestinian people were doing everything possible to reach a settlement of the crisis within the Arab framework.

The PLO has said it was necessary to find a quick settlement to the conflict to avoid war and refocus international attention on the Palestinian issue.

King meets Benjedid on Gulf crisis

Combined agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein was meeting Algerian President Chadli Benjedid Tuesday after talks with Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali on an Arab proposal to resolve the Gulf crisis.

The King, who has already visited Libya and held talks with Colonel Muammar Qadhafi, met twice with Ben Ali in Tunis, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. "The need to crystallise an Arab plan to resolve the Gulf crisis" was the focus of the talks, Petra said.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran, who is accompanying the

King along with Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the King's Political Advisor Abu Odeh, was quoted as saying Petra that the King's visit to the Maghreb states was aimed at consulting with their leaders on the Gulf crisis and "constituted a great contribution to the efforts made to deescalating the crisis and crystallising a pan-Arab position conducive to arriving at an Arab solution to the problem."

Badran voiced hope that the King's Maghreb visit, which will be followed by moves on the international scene, "will produce positive results and lead to containing the crisis in a manner which is capable of

safeguarding Arab rights and demonstrating the Arab will in establishing closer ties with countries on the basis of mutual respect and common interests."

The King also received member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee Mahmoud Abbas and Palestinian Ambassador to Tunisia Hakam Balaawi.

Soon after his arrival in Algiers, the King received a cable of appreciation from the Algerian Committee for the Support of Iraqi People for efforts to ensure a political, pan-Arab position vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis. The committee

voiced full support for the King's initiative to find an Arab solution to the Gulf dispute.

The King said on arrival an Arab solution to the crisis was essential and he condemned the influx of foreign troops to the Gulf, the Algerian News Agency APS said.

"After the end of colonisation and the cold war, it is illogical... that foreigners again be asked to return to the region. It is our duty as Arabs to do our utmost to save the situation," it quoted him as saying.

The King, is also due to visit Morocco and Mauritania before flying on to Europe.

Moscow criticises American expulsion of Iraqis

Combined agency dispatches

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union criticised the United States Tuesday for expelling Iraqi diplomats from Washington and warned that such action could lead to a "spiral of escalation" in the conflict.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov also indicated that some Arab states have failed to put enough pressure on Baghdad in response to its Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

"Arab countries have to be more energetic in their efforts aimed at eliminating the crisis," he said at a press briefing. "A lot depends on the Arabs themselves... they can make certain efforts to find a way out of this situation."

The United States has ordered 36 Iraqi embassy personnel to leave Washington by Thursday and has imposed travel limits on the 19 envoys allowed to remain. However, the United States has been unable to persuade its allies to expel Iraqi diplomats from other capitals.

The move followed Iraqi demands that foreign countries close their embassies in Kuwait. Iraq also had briefly prevented 52 dependents of U.S. personnel from leaving its country. The group eventually was allowed to go to Turkey.

Gerasimov said the Soviet Union had no plans to expel Iraqi diplomats from Moscow.

Gerasimov denied accusations that the Soviet Union had violated United Nations sanctions against Iraq by keeping its military advisers there. The Soviet Union, Iraq's largest arms supplier, cut off weapons shipments after the invasion.

Gerasimov said U.N. sanctions did not cover the military experts, who teach Iraqi soldiers to use modern Soviet-built weapons.

"Legally, there is no problem, but there is a moral aspect to that problem, so we recognise that and will try to resolve it," he said.

"We would not want any steps that can aggravate the already hot situation in the Gulf, which will make difficult the way out of that crisis," he said.

He later was asked whether the United States' action had aggravated the conflict.

"I don't believe that we have to add fuel to the fire in this explosive situation. Of course Iraq's actions to close embassies in Kuwait are illegitimate. But if you use a tit-for-tat policy in this question, you risk falling down the spiral of escalation, and aggravating the situation."

"I believe we have to mostly make use of diplomatic efforts."

He later added: "We want to move with caution... We have to be real delicate."

Asked whether the Soviet Union was being more helpful in efforts to resolve the conflict, Gerasimov said: "Diplomatically, yes, because we talk to Iraq. You don't. But the aim is the same: To stop this aggression, and to punish the aggressor."

A group of 240 Soviet women and children arrived in Moscow Tuesday after being evacuated from Iraq.

Perez de Cuellar insists on U.N. resolutions with Aziz

Combined agency dispatches

UNITED NATIONS Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has said he would insist that Iraq respect Security Council resolutions demanding the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the release of all foreigners.

Perez de Cuellar is scheduled to meet with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz Thursday in Amman, in an effort to negotiate an end to the Gulf crisis.

Since Iraq took over Kuwait Aug. 2, the U.N. Security Council has passed five resolutions condemning Iraq.

The resolutions have demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, imposed a trade embargo, declared Iraq's "annexation" of Kuwait null and void, insisted that Iraq allow all foreigners to leave, and authorised military action to enforce the economic sanctions.

"Now is the time for diplomacy in order to obtain full implementation of the Security Council resolutions," Perez de Cuellar

told reporters. "The Security Council is not a negotiator, it is a body that adopts resolutions which are laws for the international community. The secretary-general has to be a negotiator," he said.

Perez de Cuellar held a series of private meetings Monday with senior diplomats regarding his mission, including the U.S., Soviet, French, British and Chinese ambassadors; the Kuwait ambassador; and the entire Security Council.

Asked whether he was bothered that the embargo is preventing food and medicine from reaching the Iraqi public, Perez de Cuellar replied: "That is a question which is, as well, one of the subjects I am going to discuss with the Iraqis." The Security Council resolution allows shipments of such goods in certain humanitarian cases.

Although Perez de Cuellar insisted that he would always bear in mind the five resolutions passed by the Security Council in his talks with Iraqi officials, he said in an interview with NBC news that he would be flexible.

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2 Kuwait banks said offering limited facilities

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — At least two commercial banks in Kuwait have reopened with limited withdrawal facilities and the Central Bank of Kuwait is also showing signs of resuming operations which were suspended in the wake of Iraq's invasion Aug. 2, according to Asian and Arab expatriates arriving here from Kuwait.

The Al Ahli Bank and the National Bank opened their doors on Saturday but started formal functions as of Sunday, said Indian engineer R. Dev who arrived here Monday. But, there are strict limitations on withdrawals regardless of the balances in account, and automatic teller machines — widely used by expatriates — are not functioning, he added. No computer operations were also in effect, he said.

"It does not seem likely that the teller machines will be back in business any soon," Dev said. "Most of them have been damaged either by people frustrated over the closure of the banks (immediately after the invasion) or the system has been totally shut down," he told the Jordan Times.

The withdrawals are now limited to KD 30 to a single person and KD 50 to a family every week, said the engineer who was on a short visit to Kuwait when the Iraqis moved in. "If you can produce evidence that you have more than two children, then they give you an extra KD 10 for each additional child," he added.

An Arab expatriate confirmed that the two banks were functioning and added that the Central Bank of Kuwait, one of the first buildings taken by the Iraqis in their Aug. 2 invasion, is also open but is not rendering any services.

"The main doors are open and the building is under heavy Iraqi military guard," he said,

speaking on condition of anonymity. "But there were no signs of any business being transacted."

The expatriate, who preferred anonymity, said he later understood that the central bank had asked all of its employees, "whoever is left behind," to resume work. "Apparently, the main problem they face is that they do not have any qualified Iraqis to operate the computer systems," he said. "It is also the case with private banks."

The expatriate, who said he left Kuwait Monday morning, said "the reopening of the commercial banks has rekindled hope among many that they do not have to starve due to lack of liquid cash to buy food." He said he had left since his sister was getting married and he would go back to Kuwait soon.

Asian diplomats said if proved true, the reopening of banks could go a long way in alleviating the exodus of foreigners from Kuwait since one of the main reasons cited for the heavy outflow is the lack of liquid money to buy food rather than fears of an immediate war.

"Many would have stayed back and taken their chances since Kuwait represented a lifetime of savings for many," said an Asian diplomat. "But in the absence of money to buy food many opted to leave."

Although the Kuwaiti dinar is now treated at par with the Iraqi dinar — absorbing a loss of about 88 per cent of its value — food prices in Kuwait "have not really gone up," said a Pakistani tailor who arrived Monday. "But there appears to be only just enough."

The Pakistani explained that most of the bakeries in Kuwait were owned and operated by Iraqis and their departure from the country in the wake of the Iraqi takeover has led to shortages in bread.

Mubarak, Assad hold talks

ALEXANDRIA (R) — The leaders of Egypt and Syria held five hours of talks Tuesday on Arab efforts to avert war in the Gulf.

(Syrian) President Hafez Al Assad and President Hosni Mubarak exchanged their points of views and reviewed totally the situation in the region arising from the Gulf crisis. Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Sharif told reporters.

"They discussed Arab peace initiatives and joint efforts between Egypt and Syria to resolve the crisis, and the outcome of visits and diplomatic tours by Egyptian and Syrian envoys," Sharif said shortly before Assad left Egypt.

An official source described the talks as very friendly and said the two leaders' views were identical. Egypt has called for an extraordinary Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo Thursday to discuss the crisis. So far 11 of the 21 Arab League members — including Syria — have said they would attend.

Shortly before Assad's arrival in Egypt Tuesday, Mubarak told a news conference he would ask foreign forces to leave the Gulf if Iraq pulled out of Kuwait.

"If (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein accepts to evacuate Kuwait, we the Arabs, all of us, will collaborate and stand with one hand and ask the foreign troops in the area to leave," he said.

Baghdad Tuesday proclaimed Kuwait Iraq's 19th province and renamed Kuwait city Kadhimia.

Sam Nunn, chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, urged Mubarak Tuesday to send more troops to Saudi Arabia.

Egypt has sent some 5,000 troops to the kingdom, most of them with Saudi and other Arab forces near the border with Iraq. Syria has sent 1,200 troops and Morocco around 1,000, in line with the Arab summit resolution to send troops to the Gulf.

At least 100,000 Western troops are in or heading to the area to defend Gulf states and enforce a U.N. embargo on trade with Iraq.

"If Iraqi forces move towards the front-line where Arab troops are deployed... it will be a confrontation between Arabs," Mubarak told the news conference.

"That is why I urge Saddam Hussein, I urge him in the name of Arabs, in the name of solidarity, in the name of Islam, I urge you to take your hand off the bomb's pin because we will all lose," he added.

PLO seeks Iranian help to circumvent Iraq embargo

NICOSIA (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has sent its top Muslim scholar to Tehran to seek its help in defeating a U.N. trade embargo against Iran's former Gulf war enemy Iraq, Palestinian sources said Tuesday.

Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, speaker of the Palestine National Council, arrived in Tehran Saturday at the head of a Palestinian delegation for talks with Iranian leaders aimed at securing food for Baghdad, the sources said.

Iran's relations with the PLO have been cool since it sided with Iraq in the early days of the 1980-88 Gulf war.

Iran's national news agency IRNA said Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati reiterated Tehran's position in a meeting

with Sayeh Monday.

"We cannot accept the occupation of Kuwait and we reject the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf under whatever pretext," it quoted him as saying.

The agency made no mention of the reasons behind Sayeh's visit, the first by a senior PLO official in almost 10 years.

The Palestinian sources said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who has visited Baghdad twice this month, believed prospects of Iranian help had improved since Iraqi President Saddam Hussein accepted Tehran's terms for settlement of the Gulf war earlier this month.

Saddam said he wanted peace with Iran to free some 300,000 Iraqi troops from the eastern front to bolster his forces in Kuwait.

But Arab and Western political analysts believe he also hoped Iran would open the 1,080-kilometre border to help beat the U.N. trade ban, imposed four days after the Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

Iraq imports nearly 70 per cent of its food needs and has introduced rationing from Sept. 1 to counter shortages resulting from the blockade by Western warships in the Gulf and Red Sea.

Sources in the Gulf said Iran appeared to be Iraq's best hope of circumventing the embargo, at least for food supplies.

"With a population of more than 50 million Iran's consumption is so high that goods could filter through to Iraq very easily," one source said.

Saudis want Germans to do more

BONN (AP) — The Saudi Ambassador to Bonn said Tuesday West Germany should shoulder a larger share of the burden in international efforts to force Iraq out of Kuwait.

Earlier Tuesday, the Foreign Ministry said the 12 nations of the European Community (EC) — including West Germany — are weighing possible joint diplomatic sanctions against Iraq.

And Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said the EC and the Arab League should hold a joint meeting to explore possible means of politically settling the Middle East crisis.

Britain, France and other nations have contributed ships or soldiers to the massive U.S.-led military deployment in the Gulf.

But West Germany says it cannot send its own troops because the constitution bars deployments outside the NATO area. Instead, the government has sent minesweepers to patrol the Eastern Mediterranean.

The country's constitutional restrictions have made it feel conspicuous. Government officials want to amend the constitution, but a change is unlikely until after all-German elections on Dec. 2.

Nonetheless, the Saudi ambassador in Bonn said West Germany should do more.

"No matter how much Germany is offering now... we expect more. Because we think Germany has bigger responsibilities," said Ambassador Abbas Ghazawi.

Ghazawi was especially critical of alleged involvement by West German firms in helping Iraq's military industry.

"I know the (West German) government cannot allow such a commercial criminal practice. So we hope that the first thing is to close the door for such things, to make the blockade (against Iraq) a successful one," he said.

About 50 West German companies are under investigation for possible illegal shipments to Iraq. West German government officials have been trying to fend off criticism they are doing too little to help the drive against Iraq.

Genscher has demanded that holes in the nation's export laws be immediately plugged to bar illegal shipments to Iraq.

On Tuesday, Genscher and his Egyptian counterpart, Ahmad Esmat Abdul Meguid, agreed the EC and the Arab League should try to arrange a joint foreign ministers' meeting to discuss the Middle East crisis, Genscher's office said.

"Both ministers stressed their interest in seeing a political solution" to the conflict, the ministry said in a telex.

The two met at Frankfurt airport. Abdul Meguid was returning from a visit to Moscow.

The Foreign Ministry also announced the EC nations have been consulting on possible diplomatic actions against Iraq.

"There are currently talks within the EC, with the goal of coming to a common position," said a Foreign Ministry spokesman, who asked not to be further identified.

"The precise point is, what should be the response to the interference of the work of Western embassies in Kuwait?" said the spokesman.

Iraqi troops have encircled some Western embassies in Kuwait.

British minister says U.N. could end crisis

DHAHRAN (AP) — Britain's defence secretary, on a brief visit to a royal air force squadron, said Tuesday the United Nations could bring a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

But he warned Iraqi President Saddam Hussein against attacking Saudi Arabia.

The secretary, Tom King, made a brief trip to the Dhahran air base, where a British air force detachment is working with Saudi and U.S. fliers in a joint air defence operation.

He went on to Jeddah for talks with Saudi officials. King was to see Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz and hoped to meet with King Fahd.

With the "defence" of Saudi Arabia virtually assured by a massive foreign buildup, the allies must now focus on the pullout of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and restoring the Kuwaiti government, King said.

"That is the U.N. objective to which we fully subscribe and we wish to see it achieved by peaceful means," he said. But no

course of action has been ruled out, he said.

Nonetheless, King said an attack by Iraq of Saudi Arabia would be a "very, very dangerous undertaking and a very foolish one indeed."

The United Nations has voted an embargo against Iraq, and the U.N. Security Council has endorsed military force to enforce it.

Britain sent about 800 men — all involved in air defence — to Saudi Arabia after Iraq took over Kuwait on Aug. 2. Twelve Tornados, the fighter plane the kingdom has also sold to the kingdom in the past, are also on the ground.

Some of the "tremendous logistical problems" in the deployment have been ironed out, King said at a news conference.

"I have been told for instance of the vast improvement in the quality of communications which were under some pressure in the early stages," he said.

King's stop in Saudi Arabia was the first of a three-day trip that will also take him to Bahrain and Oman.

King and British commanders

in Saudi Arabia expressed cautious confidence Tuesday that war with Iraq can be avoided, media pool report said.

King met senior military commanders and Britain's front-line royal air force Tornado fighter aircraft crews who fly regular patrols close to the Kuwait border from their base at Dhahran in North-eastern Saudi Arabia.

"We were stunned to see no further aggression could succeed and I believe that is being achieved now," King said.

"To seek to proceed beyond Kuwait would be a very, very dangerous undertaking, a very foolish one indeed for (Iraq)."

When a British pool visited Dhahran seven days ago, there was a gung-ho among the British troops at Dhahran. Some wore rambo-style bandanas and some aircrew wore their desire to shoot down Iraqi MiG warplanes.

Now the mood has changed dramatically to one of routine and a feeling that the conflict is a long way off.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Paddy Hine, commander-in-chief of RAF strike command, agreed that Iraq had missed its opportunity after the invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

"On Aug. 3 or 4 it was quite feasible he could have continued down to Saudi," he said.

"But we now have sufficient forces on the ground to make that kind of operation extremely hazardous."

However, British intelligence indicates that anyone who attempted to dislodge the Iraqis by force from Kuwait would face formidable obstacles.

A land and amphibious attack on Kuwait would be fraught with difficulties, according to British intelligence reports.

To the south of the Kuwait border the terrain is covered with salt flats known as Subkhahs. Heavy vehicles would be restricted to using well-known, narrow channels through the flats and the main coast road, all of which would be heavily defended.

Iraqi ships stay out of Gulf

DUBAI (R) — Iraqi ships are staying out of the Gulf as Western warships prowled in search of blockade-runners trying to slip through the U.N. sanctions net.

Shipping executives, who follow shipping movements, said Tuesday that warships were challenging most vessels in the Gulf to enforce the U.N. trade blockade of Iraq for its Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

No Iraqi vessels had, however, been detected in the 800-kilometre waterway during the past few days and the fear of war at sea was receding, they said.

Iraq's ambassador to the United States, Mohammad Sadiq Al Mashat, told the U.S. Cable News Network television station that Baghdad had ordered its ships' captains not to resist warship interceptions as proof of its peaceful intentions.

Baghdad had previously said it would retaliate militarily against any attack on its ships.

A Western naval official in the Gulf told Reuters warships would fire at any vessel which tried to run the blockade or failed to respond to questioning by Western commanders.

There are some 70 warships in or around the Gulf as part of a

military buildup to seal off Iraq. U.S. frigates fired warning shots close to two Iraqi tankers before the U.N. last Saturday endorsed the use of necessary force in the blockade.

"It appears that Iraqi vessels are avoiding the Gulf" a Western shipping executive said.

Outside the Gulf, shipping sources said they believed three Iraqi tankers were still docked near an oil refinery in Aden, Yemen.

Another tanker was in the Mediterranean after being turned away by Sweden.

The Norwegian tanker Hansa Vega, which was refused permission to berth at Iraq's Red Sea oil loading terminal at Yanbu, Saudi Arabia, was docked off Fujairah, in the United Arab Emirates, waiting for new orders, the vessel's agents said.

"There is very, very little leakage," U.S. Deputy permanent representative to the United Nations Alexander Watson said in Singapore Tuesday in reference to the effectiveness of the blockade.

"I think tension is receding," a shipping expert said.

"The questioning is polite and

the (sea) captains are responding coolly," another executive said. The warships are enforcing sanctions aimed at cutting all supply routes to and from Iraq.

"Traffic is returning to normal in the Gulf, although there were a few cancellations due to an increase in insurance premiums," one shipping source said.

Shipping agents said most of the tankers in the Gulf were headed for the Saudi oil terminal of Ras Tanunrah and the Iranian oil terminal at Kharg Island in the northern Gulf.

Jordan said on Monday U.S. warships intercepted three cargo ships in the past two days bound for its only port of Aqaba on the Red Sea, forcing one to turn back. Aqaba is at the head of one of the few land routes to Iraq.

Western naval officials have said Western navies in the region were sharing intelligence reports and satellite pictures of ships heading to or from the Middle East.

The Italian navy chief of staff, Admiral Filippo Ruggiero, said Monday a command centre for West European warships operating in the region would be set up in Paris, and chaired by France.

Tokyo ready to announce aid

TOKYO (AP) — Japan is nearing completion of a package to assist the multinational blockade against Iraq, including sending medical personnel to the Middle East and financial assistance to the region, government officials said Tuesday.

The package is expected to be announced Wednesday, a Foreign Ministry official said. It will include assistance for the multinational force arrayed against Iraq and aid to Middle East states suffering economic hardship because of the blockade, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

While the United States has poured tens of thousands of troops into Saudi Arabia, Tokyo has been slow to decide on further measures beyond its participation in the global boycott on trade with Baghdad.

Government officials have been promising "unprecedented steps" to "punish" Iraq, but have been slow to respond because of debate over the legality of sending military units to the Gulf and of providing the U.S.-led naval blockade of Iraq with direct financial aid.

The Japanese constitution adopted after World War II bars the use of force in settling international disputes.

Tokyo also is concerned about the safety of the more than 450 Japanese nationals still in Iraq and Kuwait, including about 20

who were whisked away from their Baghdad hotel to undisclosed destinations.

A government source, speaking on condition he not be identified further, said Tokyo was "very likely" to send a medical team of up to 100 people to Saudi Arabia to help to care for refugees in the crisis.

Foreign Minister Taro

Nakayama returned Saturday from a tour of the Middle East in which he assessed the needs of Oman, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. While government officials have declined to estimate how much money Tokyo will offer, the assistance required by the region's countries could run into the billions of U.S. dollars.

They went upstairs.

"When we came out we saw Iraqis. We were surprised because we never expected any such thing to happen. For an hour and a half, we thought the Iraqis were involved in training of Kuwaitis for warfare," Gurung said.

"Only after two hours, we realised the Iraqis had overrun Kuwait when we saw their flag. But I did not see any Kuwaiti in the field. Kuwaiti forces seem to have run away without even facing them. The Kuwaitis had never experienced war, and it was probably their first encounter," the ex-soldier added.

About 300 Nepalese were working in Kuwait at the time of the takeover. The 140 who returned home Tuesday included several military veterans from Nepal's Gurkha community.

Ex-Gurkha soldiers criticise Kuwaiti defence

KATMANDU (AP) — Former Gurkha soldiers returned home from civilian jobs in Kuwait Tuesday with sharp criticism of the Kuwaiti armed forces' performance against Iraqi forces.

"Kuwaitis have gold and ample wealth but did not have the soldiers who had the courage to defend their country," said Prem Bahadur Gurung, 40, a former lieutenant in Britain's Gurkha Brigade.

Gurung, who worked as a security superintendent for a Kuwaiti real estate company after his military service, was among 140 Nepalese citizens who left Kuwait after the Aug. 2 takeover and came home via Iraq and Jordan.

Gurung said he and other men were sleeping in a basement room when the Iraqi forces entered Kuwait. Awakened by shooting,

they went upstairs.

"When we came out we saw Iraqis. We were surprised because we never expected any such thing to happen. For an hour and a half, we thought the Iraqis were involved in training of Kuwaitis for warfare," Gurung said.

"Only after two hours, we realised the Iraqis had overrun Kuwait when we saw their flag. But I did not see any Kuwaiti in the field. Kuwaiti forces seem to have run away without even facing them. The Kuwaitis had never experienced war, and it was probably their first encounter," the ex-soldier added.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children's programme
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Cairo news message
18:30	Local programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Arabic programme
23:00	News in Arabic
23:40	Play
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Des chiffres et des lettres
19:00	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	A Family for Joe
21:10	Documentary
22:00	News in English
22:30	Intimate Contact
PRAYER TIMES	
04:42	Fajr
06:03	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:37	Dhuhr
16:13	'Asr
19:10	Maghreb
20:31	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740	
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terminus Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561	
St. Epiphanius Church Tel. 771751	
Assunta International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mufeed Tannous	884480
Dr. Abdul Rahman Jaber	775050
Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim	635999
Dr. Youssef Rashid	806301
Firas Pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asana pharmacy	637025
Nelroch pharmacy	623072
Al Sahab pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsad pharmacy	637660
ZARQA:	
Dr. Samir Al Lawzi	(—)
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 657777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	895390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	602800
Police Complaints	661176
Water and Sewage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	661101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	(—)
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/22
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Al-Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn.	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malina, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, J. Amman	661714
St. Joseph Hospital	661131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muhammadiyah	667279
The Islamic, Abdull	665127/37
Al-AM, Abdull	664146
Al-Jalila, Al-Muhammadiyah	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf	775111/26
Army, Marika	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	622402/30
Amal Hospital	674153
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
ERBID:	
Princess Sumaya Hospital	(02)755555
Great Catholic Hospital	(02)727273
Ibn Al-Nadef Hospital	(02)747100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
10:00	Damascus (RJ)
10:30	Jeddah (RJ)
10:45	Larnaca (RJ)
10:55	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:00	Cairo (RJ)
11:30	London (RJ)
11:30	Madrid (RJ)
11:45	Paris (RJ)
11:55	Frankfurt (RJ)
12:00	Brunel, Rome (RJ)
12:05	Rome (RJ)
12:30	Paris (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
10:00	Larnaca (RJ)
11:00	Jeddah (RJ)
11:00	Bangkok (LN)

DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian Flights (Terminal 1)	
12:00	Amman (RJ)
12:15	Amsterdam (RJ)
12:30	Tunis (RJ)
12:45	London (RJ)
13:00	Cairo (RJ)
13:15	Paris (RJ)
13:30	Frankfurt (RJ)
13:45	Brunel, Rome (RJ)
14:00	Rome (RJ)
14:15	Paris (RJ)
14:30	Madrid (RJ)
14:45	Jeddah (RJ)
15:00	Damascus (RJ)
15:15	Larnaca (RJ)
15:30	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
15:45	Cairo (RJ)
16:00	London (RJ)
16:15	Madrid (RJ)
16:30	Paris (RJ)
16:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
17:00	Brunel, Rome (RJ)
17:15	Rome (RJ)
17:30	Paris (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
10:00	Larnaca (RJ)
11:00	Jeddah (RJ)
11:00	Bangkok (LN)

12:15	Sa	(TY)	21:55	App
12:30		(MS)	22:00	Apric
16:30		(EK)		Ban
18:00	Ank	(TK)		Beas
20:25		(LH)		Chab
22:05		(PK)		Che
22:20	Par	(AF)		Che
DEPARTURES				
Royal Jordanian				
(Terminal 1)				
12:00		(RJ)		Che
12:15	Amsterd	(RJ)		Che
12:20	Tunis	(RJ)		Che
17:15		(RJ)		Che
21:00		(RJ)		Che
21:10		(RJ)		Che
21:20		(RJ)		Che
21:25	Abu D	(RJ)		Che
22:05	Cas	(RJ)		Che
00:30		(RJ)		Che
Other Flights				
00:35	Lar	(SR)		Che
09:15		(ME)		Che
11:05		(AZ)		Che
12:00		(CV)		Che
14:00		(LN)		Che
14:05		(MS)		Che
14:15		(MS)		Che
15:25	Je	(TK)		Che
17:30		(EK)		Che
18:25		(TK)		Che

Scouts assist evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Education Mohammad Hamdan had instructed departments of education in Amman, Zarqa, Balqa and Madaba to create scout camps whose task will be to offer voluntary assistance to help Arab and foreign evacuees staying in Amman International Fair at Marj Al Hamam.

Hamdan stressed the need to form scout teams from all the departments' schools, with each team comprising 32 boys scout and four leaders. Hamdan suggested that each team should stay at the centre for three days and then be replaced by another team.

Amman Mayor Ali Al Subeihat Tuesday expressed the readiness of Amman Municipality to take all the necessary measures needed in areas where the evacuees gather in the Jordanian capital.

Subeihat said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the municipality, since the beginning of the crisis, had been following up issues related to services that should be available in places where the evacuees gather. He said the municipality took care of public cleanliness in these sites, including some which are outside the borders of the

municipality, spraying insecticides and inspecting public safety.

Subeihat said the municipality provides evacuees with water tankers and builds sanitary units.

In Zarqa, Governor Mohammad Hussein Al Shobaki, accompanied by Parliament deputies Theeb Anis and Ziyad Abu Mahfouz, inspected the People's Army training centres. The commander of the People's Army in the governorate briefed them on the training process.

In North Shumeh Governor of the North Jordan Valley district Khalaf Mahasneh decided to divide the district into 21 zones to facilitate the training process.

In Tafleh, Governor Khalaf Mahasneh reviewed with the Civil Defence Deputy Director General Yasser Al Humoud a plan prepared by the Tafleh Civil Defence Committee. The plan provides for training citizens on public defence works.

In Karak Humoud also met with Karak Governor Ismail Duhaman Zaben and discussed with him issues related to training citizens in the governorate on civil defence works.

Humoud then visited the civil defence centres at Al Karak Club and Mu'ta University and inspected training works there.

Unionists send memo to Turkey

AMMAN (J.T.) — Turkish Ambassador to Jordan Oktay Aksoy Tuesday received a memorandum addressed to Turkish President Turgut Ozal from the professional associations of Jordan urging him to prevent Western nations from using Turkish territory to launch raids on Iraq.

The memorandum said that should the Turkish government allow foreign powers to use its territory to launch an aggression on Iraq, it would open the way for hostilities between the Arab and Turkish nations "with indelible consequences."

The memorandum explained the Jordanian people's open support for their Iraqi brothers in their struggle to stop foreign powers' intervention in the Gulf region.

Following the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2, the Turkish authorities announced that Turkey had stopped tankers from loading Iraqi oil from the last operating pipeline through the country.

The Turkish decision effectively stopped the operation of the pipeline taking oil from northern Iraq to a Turkish terminal at the northeastern tip of the Mediterranean.

The Turkish ambassador, who received the memorandum from the heads of the Jordanian professional unions in Amman, said that his country would like to maintain very strong relations with the Arab World. He said Turkey was member of the North

Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and that Iraq does not fall within the alliance's defence scope, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The memorandum was delivered to the ambassador in the wake of a visit to Jordan by Turkey's Foreign Minister Ali Bozer who told His Majesty King Hussein at an audience last Sunday that Ankara was keen on solving the Gulf crisis through dialogue.

"Only dialogue with all the parties is capable of achieving a solution to the crisis and sparing the region and the world the dangerous repercussions that could result from any explosion," Bozer said.

Last Friday Turkey warned that it may have to close its border post with Iraq unless refugees coming through were quickly taken in by their own countries. The announcement said that the border crossing point was built for truck traffic and lacked facilities for large numbers of people.

The appeal to Turkey was made on the eve of a visit to Ankara for talks on the Gulf crisis by a team from the Lower House of Parliament. In an earlier statement, Parliament had said it was dispatching the team to Turkey on Sept. 2. The team is headed by former minister and deputy Taher Al Masri. The aim was to discuss the situation in the Gulf. Another team would go to Iran for a similar mission.

Circassians urge dialogue to end the Gulf crisis

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Circassian Charity Association in Jordan issued a statement yesterday in which it appealed to Circassians around the world to exert their influence on their respective governments to help defuse the present Gulf crisis by replacing the present clamour for war with a meaningful dialogue based on a responsible attitude toward the future of humanity.

The appeal was directed to various Circassian official and non-official groupings, organisations and associations. These included four Circassian governments of self-administered territories in the Caucasus and more than 50 Circassian organisations in the U.S., Britain, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey,

Syria, Egypt and Australia.

The statement said, "We, the Circassians of Jordan appeal to you, our brothers and sisters, around the world, to work effectively, diligently, and candidly to enlighten public opinion in your countries to take every possible step to move away from the rhetoric of war and the continual amassment of troops and weapons of total destruction thus endangering the achievements of humanity and civilisation in the Arab and Muslim regions and the world, and this, for no conceivable reason except to achieve for imperialism, and its Israeli ally, total control of the wealth and livelihood of the Arab peoples. By your diligent efforts, we hope you will serve the cause of humanity and international peace.

Queen visits Civil Defence Department

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Tuesday visited the Civil Defence Department (CDD) and was briefed by its Director Afif Al Ghoul on the civil defence training programmes for the public.

At least 34,000 men and women will be trained in civil defence work, according to CDD programmes, Ghoul told the Queen.

The Queen, accompanied by the CDD director and other officers, inspected training centres for women at Sweileh and Wadi Seer and watched women doing practical training in fire fighting and first aid operations. Taking part in the training courses were 70 women.

According to Fiyal Saleh, the Sweileh Community Centre director, large numbers of women have registered for these courses, each of which lasts five days.

International community sends more aid to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — An inter-ministerial committee set up by the government last week to handle the question of accommodating and relieving thousands of Arab and foreign expatriates stranded in Jordan was reported continuing its contacts with embassies and organisations to raise additional funds, in-kind assistance and relief supplies.

The committee's Chairman Salameh Hamad said that contacts were specially made Tuesday with the purpose of securing means of transport for the evacuees.

Hamad said he had met with the representative of the European Community (EC) in Jordan, Christian Falkowski, to discuss the type of assistance to be offered to the expatriates, especially ensuring transportation for those whose governments have so far failed to provide transport facilities.

Quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Hamad said that he had also discussed with Falkowski urgent food and medical supplies to the Jordanian authorities which have been providing such assistance to the huge influx of foreigners.

In Brussels, the European

Community Commission said Tuesday it approved emergency food aid for evacuees entering Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait and for the Jordanian population affected by the Gulf crisis.

The 12-nation trade bloc said in a statement it would send cereals, milk powder and vegetable oil for a total of 2.785 million European Currency Units (ECUs) (\$3.75 million).

Later Hamad met with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resident representative here Ali Atiq with whom he reviewed the nature of assistance which Jordan could use in relieving the expatriates under the present circumstances.

The UNDP on Sunday announced that a \$750,000 worth of food supplies and \$100,000 in cash as a grant to Jordan would be forthcoming soon and UNICEF and other U.N. agencies have also announced programmes for providing required assistance.

Hamad voiced the government's appreciation to various Jordanian citizens and organisations who have been offering food and medical supplies.

He said that shipments of food, tents and medical supplies were on their way to Jordan, and that

his committee was maintaining intensive contacts in this respect.

Meanwhile New Zealand has said it would send 16 tonnes of milk powder to Jordan and Egypt for the thousands of refugees who have fled the Gulf crisis.

Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer said combat-ready forces would be sent to the Gulf only if specifically requested by the United Nations, and even then would only constitute a symbolic presence.

"Our capacity is small and the military importance of it is negligible in the circumstances," he said.

Concerning further U.S. efforts to meet the urgent humanitarian needs in Jordan, the United States is contributing \$300,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross for its emergency activities on the Iraqi-Jordanian border and within Jordan.

The amount is in addition to one million dollars announced Aug. 24, which is being made available for local assistance through the U.S. embassy in Amman.

The United States has also sent 500 tents and 17,875 plastic 5-gallon water jugs, which arrived in Amman Aug. 26.

Shipping agents urge pressure on shipowners to disregard threats

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Maritime Shipping Agents Association (JMSAA) Tuesday issued an appeal to various merchants to exercise pressure on ship owners to disregard foreign threats and maintain their maritime services with the Aqaba Port.

Since the start of the Gulf crisis, earlier this month, a number of ships, carrying imported products for Jordan, have discharged their cargo at other ports after succumbing to foreign power threats, said the association President Tawfiq Kawa in a statement.

He urged Jordanian importers to exercise pressure on the shipping companies to carry the imported consignments of different commodities to the port of Aqaba which, he said, is operating normally.

He said imports for Jordan were not subject to the current trade embargo imposed on Iraq.

The statement came in the wake of reports that vessels heading for Aqaba have been intercepted by U.S. navy vessels. These ships, according to Jordan Ports Corporation Director General Awad Al Tal, have been thoroughly searched before being allowed to proceed to Aqaba Port.

Official sources in Aqaba said that a ship carrying auto spare parts was prevented from heading for Aqaba and was also prevented from unloading at Saudi and Egyptian ports.

In his statement Kawa said that merchants and importers had been urged to contact the vessels carrying the imported goods to

reship them to Aqaba Port, with the cost to be borne by the importers, if necessary.

Kawa said that the association had already informed the Ministry of Transport about the shipping situation in Aqaba and the Association's plans to deal with the situation. But he noted that goods being imported through Aqaba Port were bound to be sold at higher prices in view of the expected war risk fees and added insurance premiums that could be imposed by the world insurance companies.

Meanwhile, the Amman-based Arab Doctors Federation (ADF) Tuesday issued a statement demanding an immediate withdrawal of foreign forces from the Gulf region so that the way could be open for a pan-Arab solution under the Arab League's umbrella.

The statement urged various Arab governments and organisations to back Iraqi people's efforts in confronting and defeating the imperialist-Zionist invasion of Arab lands.

Describing the invasion as a new crusade against the Arab Nation, the statement said that the foreign powers "seek to impose their domination on Arab oil wealth, destroy Arab strength, and prevent the Arab people from seeking progress and unity."

It said that the presence of foreign powers in Arab lands and their open threat to the Iraqi people constituted a flagrant violation of all international principles and the United Nations Charter.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

18,000 passengers leave Jordan in two days

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 18,000 passengers arriving from Kuwait and Iraq, in transit to their countries, have left Amman by air during the last two days, a spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority said Tuesday. The source added that the Authority operated 94 additional flights to cope with this large number of passengers.

Ministry opens three schools

NORTH SHOUNEH (Petra) — The Educational Department here has recently established three schools for boys and girls to cope with the increasing number of school children in the district. The new schools are in Krimeh, Mashareh and Buseileh.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

LECTURES

* Lecture entitled "The Chemical War in the Arab Gulf Region" by retired Lieutenant Colonel Rafeh Al Amr at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:30 p.m.
* Lecture entitled "Unemployment and Development of Labour Market in Jordan" by Dr. Mohammad Abdul Hadi Al Akel at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:30 p.m.

U.N. chief to insist on resolutions

(Continued from page 1)

or negotiation," Bush told questioners Monday, on the basic principles enunciated in the United Nations resolutions.

The president spoke with reporters after his initial business meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who is at Bush's home on Walker's Point for a two-day business and recreational visit.

Reminded that his national security adviser had described Saddam as being trapped "in a box" by world opinion, Bush was asked if there is "a way out beyond unconditional surrender" for the Iraqi leader. "Certainly not on the U.N. position," Bush responded. "The position of international law is not negotiable."

Bush said he believed that was what British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had in mind in seeming to reject talks with Iraq. "I would agree with that," he said of Thatcher's view. "The United Nations has spoken. There is no room for compromise or negotiation on that point."

He said the question might have had in mind "flexibility" in the position of the United States and other nations with forces in the Gulf region. "There is no flexibility," he asserted, "on Iraq getting out of Kuwait and the rulers being permitted to come back to Kuwait."

Bush rejected suggestions that there are differences emerging among the 22 nations committed to enforcing the U.N. embargo against commerce with Iraq.

"Any nuances of difference," he said, "are so overwhelmed by the common ground that they are almost meaningless, the way I view it. I think the thing of note is, how together everybody is, not that there might be a nuance of difference."

Mulroney agreed, terming the notion that the Soviet Union would be joining the United States and other nations in opposing a former ally, Iraq, would have been considered ludicrous just two years ago. He called the unanimity of the U.N. Security Council "an historic achievement by the United Nations, by members of the (Atlantic) alliance, and by the president of the United States. It's a remarkable achievement."

French President Francois Mitterrand ruled out any deal with Iraq unless it quits Kuwait and frees Westerners.

There can be no arrangement that accepts a breach of law. The United Nations have perfectly defined the

framework of their action," Mitterrand told a political conference in Oslo.

"International law must prevail over force," he said in part of a speech broadcast by French television.

Thatcher, interviewed by Finnish Television in London, predicted that mounting world pressure would eventually force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

"The stranglehold, the noose, will gradually tighten until they have withdrawn from Kuwait," she said, specifically referring to the multinational forces gathered in the Gulf and the sanctions against Baghdad.

'Kuwait is 19th province'

(Continued from page 1)

Iraqi province of Basra. The border strip was named Saddamiyat Al Mithla.

Three administrative districts replaced Kuwait's four pre-takeover provinces. Kuwait City was renamed Kadhimia, which Hadithi said was its name before World War I.

The White House also condemned Baghdad's move as President George Bush prepared to head back to Washington to brief Congress on his Gulf policy.

"The reaction is quite obvious," said presidential spokesman Roman Popadiuk. "The

annexation is null and void. The whole United Nations has spoken on it. And that's that."

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said the Iraqi move was a threat to peace moves in the Gulf crisis.

"It's an Iraqi method of putting peace moves in peril. It is completely incompatible with the arrival of (U.N. Secretary General Javier) Perez de Cuellar in the region," he said.

Faisal was speaking to reporters after meeting French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Perez de Cuellar is due to hold talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Amman Thursday.

The Defence Department, meanwhile, said Iraq's troop strength in and near Kuwait has increased to 265,000 soldiers. "There's been a general trend in the past several days of these numbers increasing," spokesman Pete Williams said.

It also estimated the total costs of the Desert Shield operation through the end of September at \$2.5 billion, nearly double the previous estimate of \$1.3 billion.

Williams said the sharply increased costs were due to the expense of calling up reserve and National Guard forces, increased operations for ships and aircraft and to increased fuel costs.

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GUVS plans a second shipment of supplies for Iraqi children

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) is contemplating a second shipment of foodstuffs and medical supplies to Iraq next week as a gift from Jordanian children, and the campaign to collect contributions is going ahead unabated, according to GUVS Executive President Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib.

He said in a statement to the Jordan Times that between 60 and 100 vehicles will go around Amman this coming Friday to collect contributions of milk, food and medicine from Jordanian individuals and organisations for the benefit of the Iraqi children.

"The Friday campaign will be launched just in Amman because programmes for collecting contributions for the Iraqi children have been particularly successful in the capital," said Dr. Khatib.

GUVS Monday dispatched its first shipment of 10 trucks loaded with food supplies like milk, eggs, chicken, dairy products and medicine to Iraq and announced that up to Monday GUVS had raised JD 250,000 in cash and in-kind assistance to the Iraqi children.

Khatib said that the vehicles, touring various districts on Friday, will carry Jordanian children who will receive the donations. The donations will be forwarded to GUVS and trucked to Iraq.

Six planes leave for Cairo

AQABA (Petra) — Six Egyptian planes carrying 914 Egyptians Tuesday left for Cairo. Aqaba Airport sources said that the number of passengers departing from the airport is on the decrease and that planes there were waiting for passengers.

Minister briefs committee on energy, civil defence situation

AMMAN (Petra) — A parliamentary committee responsible for following up Jordan's preparedness to deal with any emergency in view of the situation in the Gulf held meetings here with Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher and Civil Defence Department (CDD) Director Afif Al Ghoul to receive reassurances on the energy and civil defence situation in the Kingdom.

The committee's rapporteur Salim Al Zoubi said later that Taher sentenced a full briefing about the measures being taken by the Ministry of Energy to deal with emergencies.

"Discussion at the meeting centred on means of spreading awareness among the public on need to reduce energy consumption in the light of the crisis," Zoubi said.

The CDD director reviewed the current programmes implemented to provide training in civil defence, fire fighting and first aid, Zoubi added.

He said that the commander of the People's Army will later be summoned by the committee to present a briefing on various preparations and training to the members of the public in the use of light arms.

In the meantime an Upper House of Parliament's committee has been discussing the Gulf crisis's effects on Jordan.

A spokesman said that two working papers were submitted to the committee on popular mobilisation to confront the consequences of the crisis and arrangements for helping the public to adapt to austerity measures.

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Soviets and French can do better for area

WITH the near demise of communism, many Americans believe that this is the end of an important chapter in history. According to some state department analysts the world has finally accepted the American ideal and way of life as the final choice. The American dream has triumphed, they maintain, and U.S. politicians must see to it that this "happy" ending should hold for ever and ever, even by force. That is why perhaps Americans tend to shun heroes other than their own, non-American nationalists and nationalism, and all the aspirations of the world's underdogs. For them history stops at their doorstep: Live American or die.

Should Europeans, West and East, subscribe to this? Should the Russians, the French and the Germans follow this American "ideology" blindly and stop here? Should the whole of Europe, including the Soviet Union, have lined up behind the U.S. in its current policies and objectives over the Gulf crisis?

Europe has more than one reason not to do so. First, the Europeans and the Arabs have a centuries-old, mixed history of mutual interests, conflicts, wars and cultural exchanges. It was some Europeans who at the turn of century drew up the borders of this region and have since depended on its energy resources to keep their industries and way of life going. Why go American now?

Second, united Europe and the Arab World will end up being the most inter-dependent trade partners in the coming century. America they might still need — but not for destructive reasons anymore.

The Soviet Union has a responsibility of another type. For decades, with the whole world polarised into East and West, many Arab countries — but mostly the Arab masses — identified themselves with the Soviet Union as their main backer against imperialists and usurpers of their national rights. The Soviet Union in fact helped in building up the overwhelming resentment among people of this region for Western hegemony, and particularly America's hypocritical and harmful policies in the area. People in this region therefore have been deeply disappointed by the Soviet stand vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis and the Soviet Union's total support for siding with the U.S. in its confrontation with the Arab masses.

And if Margaret Thatcher's Britain has sold its soul to the U.S., France, which for decades prided itself on its independence from U.S.-led policies, has a more constructive role to play in the region than just to throw all of its weight behind the U.S. and against the sentiments of the Arab Nation.

One cannot of course ignore the faint signals of reasonableness and understanding emanating from Moscow and Paris. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's remark that the Soviets have no plans to use force in the Gulf is a positive one. However, his assertion that his country will not object if other countries resorted to military action in strangulating Iraq is extremely regrettable. The Soviet acquiescence gives the U.S. a free hand to police the whole world the way it sees fit without any deterrent. This is a very dangerous situation for everybody, especially the Third World. Regional powers will from now on seek self-dependence to strengthen themselves to counter the arrogance of the only remaining superpower, the U.S.

French Prime Minister Michel Rocard's remarks in parliament on Monday were also encouraging but fell short of healing the wound. He was quoted as telling the French legislature that the international community had not shown the same enthusiasm that it displayed during the Gulf crisis towards other conflicts, especially the Palestinian problem, which, he said, remained the biggest wound in the Arab psyche and heart. This French position, and soul searching, has come around very slowly, and somehow in a confused manner, but it did not go far enough in prescribing a real solution for today's conflict.

However, both the Soviet and French positions remain to be crucial for further diplomatic action to help defuse the crisis in the Gulf.

Both nations, with their traditionally strong relations with the Arabs and their influence with the U.S., ought to further enhance the call for negotiations that Jordan is advocating. They need to strongly point to the U.S.' biased policies in the Middle East and especially in regard to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict that among other things has led the region to the present crisis. They ought also to sense the danger to world security and stability which is inherent in allowing a single superpower to take it upon itself to interpret international law and apply it accordingly.

People with a sense of history and a share in it, like Mitterrand and Gorbachev, ought not let the U.S. blur their vision and drag them into a conflict that might, if it is not addressed immediately and urgently, endanger the cause of security and stability of the whole world.

JORDAN PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily Tuesday expressed optimism that His Majesty King Hussein's ongoing endeavours to reach a peaceful settlement for the Gulf crisis will meet with success. The paper said that agreement between Jordan and Libya on the elements of a new Arab initiative to end the Gulf crisis, and optimism displayed by the Jordanian and Libyan officials in this respect can only point to very positive developments. In his talks with the leaders of Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania the King is expected to make further headway towards a settlement; and for this to happen, King Hussein is in need of backing from other Arab and friendly nations, the paper continued. It said that should Arab Gulf countries like the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman join the King's efforts to attain an even-handed solution, all elements for a peaceful end on the Arab part will have been provided. The paper said that King Hussein has already secured backing from Yemen and Sudan for his relentless efforts; and this is cause for further optimism. U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who is visiting Amman on Thursday, has said that signs coming out from the Middle East were encouraging; and this can add to the King's efforts and contribute to their success, said the paper. It expressed hope that diplomatic contacts will finally succeed in averting a catastrophe in the Arab region.

With the start of the new school year in Jordan, many limited-income groups are finding it exceedingly difficult to purchase stationery for their children because of their soaring prices, says a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily. Nazih notes that the rise in prices occurred just at the start of the school year and when the students are in dire need of pencils, books and notebooks for their school work.

Economic Forum

Mr. Bush: President or candidate for presidency

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

MR. Bush's gunboat diplomacy might and might not pay dividends in the short run but, in the long run, it will have very nasty side effects if it does not fireback. True it will satisfy the instincts of the cowboy complex of the American president, but it will not achieve real victory to him because, to do that, it will have to subdue the Arab Nation. Of course, subduing one or two regimes or a host of rulers is not subduing a nation. Short of annihilation, nations are never subdued, even by naked force. This is a scientific fact amply evidenced by the events of history in the case of Red Indians, for example, not to mention Vietnam.

To an observer like myself, the events of the last four weeks suggest that Mr. Bush is psychologically programmed to say no to any proposals or initiatives that fall one millimetre short of his objectives and perceptions. Even if Iraq says it will pull out from Kuwait, Mr. Bush will mechanically say no. He looks much

like a cowboy who has loaded his gun and is mindlessly intent on a shootout. Surely, this is not statesmanship. One fears that he is taking things personally and is behaving as a runner up to the next U.S. presidency elections more than as the present American president. A president acts in the best interests of the USA, but a candidate acts in his best personal interests. The two sets of interests are not necessarily identical.

Heads of states, especially of super and big powers, must be able to see through the smokescreens created by such things as the media, self-interest, fanaticism, power-madness and indignation and to discern the fundamental facts.

One such fact is that if Arab blood is ever shed by the Americans in this area, will not dry up for decades to come, until it is properly and amply revenged.

Another fact is that Arab oil has created astronomical wealth disparities in the Arab World whereby one Arab indi-

vidual may own tens of billions of dollars while an entire Arab people is struck by famine and abject poverty. No forces can suppress, for a long time, these disparities which are ideal recipes for social and political upheavals. It is in the interest of all parties not to ignore this fact but to recognise these disparities as the true reasons for the present turmoil and disorder in the area. Even if the present flare is contained, it will erupt again at a higher level of violence sooner or later.

A third fact is that a balanced regional development is needed to remedy these disparities and their subversive effects. Again, it is in the best interests of all parties, including countries and USA and all Arab oil producing countries, to realise that the funds necessary to finance such development are not charity but very prudent investments in the future of these parties themselves and the stability of the area. Marshall Plan was not American charity or money

thrown to the winds but very shrewd investment in the future of Europe and USA itself. And it did pay: Communist regimes in Europe were not defeated by military might and armed clashes but by the economic progress achieved by countries which benefitted from Marshall Plan such as West Germany which could never have succeeded in uniting Germany by using whatever military means.

A fourth point, Mr. Bush believes that the American oil interests in the Middle East have become threatened by the recent developments in Kuwait. Certainly he is honest in his belief but he is wrong, because Arabs need to sell their oil to the West more than the West needs to buy it as we so often stated. Arab oil will have to flow all the time to the West. The Wall Street Journal tells us that "the world oil market is best thought of as one large international pool of oil into which producing nations pump and out of which consuming nations withdraw."

No matter to whom, Arabs, or some of them, choose to sell their oil, this oil must end up in that pool; there is just no other place to go to. The huge oil reserves that might be under the control of leaders like President Saddam Hussein are destined to flow, sooner or later, into that pool and need not, therefore, ignite or fan Mr. Bush's worries, notwithstanding any temporary flow disruptions (or embargoes as the one imposed by Mr. Bush himself on Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil).

Mr. Bush is worried about not getting Arab oil at a reasonable price. Again he is sincere but wrong. Being a perfect market, the world oil market does not tolerate an unreasonable price, low or high. Actually, it is the Arabs, like President Saddam, who are worried that Mr. Bush wants to get Arab oil at an unreasonable, that is, cheap, price and threatens to use military force to achieve that. If Mr. Bush really wants to get oil at a low price, there is a very safe, satisfactory and fair

way to do that. USA and its allies must cut their demand for oil through energy-saving methods and switching to alternative sources of energy. Experience showed they did so after the second oil shock and they really did very fine in this field but then they abandoned this course as they surrendered to the temptation of burning more cheap oil.

Yes, Mr. Bush honestly believes that American oil interests in the Middle East are threatened but he is damn wrong because that is an imaginary threat which must have been based on ill advice. There is no Arab leader who is intrinsically hostile to USA. It is the American policy which makes Arabs and Arab leaders hostile to USA and is making more of them just now. And it is Washington which has been always hostile to Arab aspirations and national interests as evidenced by the acceptance, support and blessing it has given to the 23-year Israeli occupation of Arab land.

Open letter to Mr. Bush

Mind your courtyard, we'll take care of ours

IT WAS interesting to hear part of your fervent speech about democracy at the U.N. last year, 1989. I am only surprised now that your troops are in our backyard, how you interpret that word in theory and practice. I am willing to send you a plain message, plain to the ground, concerning what you are doing and what you should be doing, the latter first.

Living in America, and graduating from California State University at Northridge (CSUN) (1984), and after many subsequent trips to Los Angeles, I noticed that there is a lot of work to be done in order to redeem the American internal, social infrastructure from foulness: Drugs, AIDS, alcoholism, porno-stuff and many others which filtered into your American society, including politicians and the military. I wonder whether some twenty years from now if there would be any leaders in America to run it, even a president who would be able to say in his presidency speech more than the following words: "I am committed to the security of Israel." Do you not agree, Mr. President, that you should be working at your own backyard and not ours?

Concerning the economy of the super-power, USA... I believe that you would consent to the fact that it is fragile — mere decoration. I suppose you realise that the economy of the United States is not only afflicted by inflation, homeless people, unemployment, and millions of Americans below poverty line. But it is also an economy run by multi-national corporations that have no interest whatsoever for America.

Mr. President, do you not agree that you should do something about local American economy, instead of acting as an executive manager for multi-national corporations, those corporations which are serving Zionism? I certainly do not believe that working in our backyard, with all that Rambo stuff, is other than a disaster. Nor can I believe that embroiling Europe in the Middle East would impede a competent European unity by 1992. Would you rather agree about some precautions against the idea of "Great Israel" that shall have severe impact upon the whole world (as in The Book of Psalms), now that you feared only one step by Iraq in Kuwait?

Maybe instead of multinational troops in our backyard, you should send experts to learn theocracy from our old Islamic heritage: for, separation between state and church was a wrong reaction to a wrong situation — not American democracy practised in our backyard. To learn theology, where God is the Lord of all beings Who is not primitive, tribal, racist god of Israel — nor secularism. To learn about family as the nucleus of healthy society — not an extended family in bars, restaurants, and institutions. To learn economic equilibrium between the needs of the individual and the society — not capitalism nor Communism. If you should do that, I am sure you will be received with grace. But you will have to pay in terms of knowledge and advanced technology, not the same way you pay so many dollars for so many barrels of oil — not that cheap. By doing so, Mr. President, you would endorse a positive and prudent attitude to protect the national interests of the U.S. in the area. Sending troops, or being committed to the security of Israel which proved incompetent to protect the national interests of America, showed only the dangers the whole world would be exposed to. The key word, Mr. President, is "co-operation" or, if you wish, diplomacy.

Speculating about what you are doing, Mr. President, is not easy. I have an instinctive feeling that you are preparing the path for "Great Israel" — but who cares about instincts? It is possible that you are working hard to internationalise capitalism, a new phase by multi-national corporations to inherit the wealth of the nations. Again, all alleys lead to Rome; this time, no instinctive feelings. But, Mr. President, you are acting as an obstacle against the unity of people in this region and against their desires — are you democratic or not? Should you object to the use of force by Iraq in order to achieve the unity of the Arab World, then recall the civil war in America without which there would not have been USA nor would you have been "President of USA." Speculating from a theological point of view, I hope, Mr. President, you will not invoke U.N. Resolution No. 666 at the Security Council, in fulfillment and corresponding to the number of the Beast and the Prostitute Woman in the Book of Revelation. Before any such provocation, whatever it might be. I pray, many with me, that President Saddam Hussein of Iraq would completely burn the oil fields in the Arab World.

Mr. President, powerful nations and strong races passed. I do still remember Prof. Klotz at CSUN saying that in future people will look at the ruins of America the same way we are looking at the ruins of Rome. Human beings pass away: Humanity survives. Finally, may I interpret to you a raging whisper in our backyard, should you be interested? Poetically, it says:

Roses are red, Roses are blue:
Get out of Arabia,
Out of Palestine too.

May the Lord of all beings grant you peace, inspiration, and illumination to work for justice.

Ibrahim A. Qafaiti
Amman.

Mr. Bush, your wager is my son

By Alex Molnar

MILWAUKEE — Dear President Bush: I kissed my son goodbye today. He is a 21-year-old Marine. You have ordered him to Saudi Arabia. The letter telling us he was going arrived at our vacation cottage in northern Wisconsin by Express Mail on Aug. 13. We left immediately for North Carolina to be with him. Our vacation was over.

Some commentators say you are continuing your own vacation to avoid appearing trapped in the White House, as President Jimmy Carter was during the Iran hostage crisis. Perhaps that is your reason.

However, as I sat in my motel room watching you on television, looking through my son's hastily written last will and testament and listening to military equipment rumble past, you seemed to me to be both callous and ridiculous chasing golf balls and zipping around in your boat in Kennebunkport.

While visiting my son I had a chance to see him pack his chemical-weapons suit and try on his body armor. I don't know if you've ever had this experience, Mr. President. I hope you never will.

I also met many of my son's

fellow soldiers. They are fine young men. A number told me that they were from poor families. They joined the Marines as a way of earning enough money to go to college.

None of the young men I met are likely to be invited to serve on the board of directors of a savings and loan association, as your son Neil was. And none of them have parents well enough connected to call or write a general to ensure that their child stays out of harm's way, as Vice President Quayle's parents did for him during the Vietnam war.

I read in today's Raleigh News and Observer that, like you, Mr. Quayle and Secretary of States James Baker are on vacation. Meanwhile, Defence Secretary Cheney shuttles to and from the Gulf. I think this symbolises a government that no longer has a non-military foreign policy vision, one that uses the military to conceal the fraud that American diplomacy has become.

Yes, you have proved a relatively adept tactician in the last three weeks. But if American diplomacy hadn't been on vacation for the better part of a decade we wouldn't be in the spot we are today.

Where were you, Mr. President, when Iraq was killing its

own people with poison gas? Why, until the recent crisis, was it business as usual, with Saddam Hussein, the man you call a Hitler?

The Reagan-Bush administration rolled into Washington talking about the magic of a "free market" in oil. You diluted gas-mileage requirements for cars and dismantled federal energy policy. And now you have ordered my son to the Middle East. For what? Cheap gas?

Is the American "way of life" that you say my son is risking his life for the continued "right" of Americans to consume 25 per cent to 30 per cent of the world's oil?

The "free market" to which you are so fervently devoted has a high price tag, at least for parents like me and young men and women like my son.

Now that we face the prospect of war I intend to support my son and his fellow soldiers by doing everything I can, to oppose any offensive U.S. military action in the Gulf. The troops deserve far better than the politicians and policies that hold them hostage.

As my wife and I sat in a little cafe outside our son's base last week, trying to eat, fighting back tears, a young Marine struck up a conversa-

tion with us. As we parted he wished us well and said, "May God forgive us for what we are about to do."

President Bush, the policies you have advocated for the last decade have set the stage for military conflict in the Middle East. Your response to the Iraqi conquest of Kuwait has set in motion events that will pressure you to use our troops not to defend Saudi Arabia but to attack Iraq. And I'm afraid that, as that pressure mounts, you will wager my son's life in a gamble to save your political future.

In the past you have demonstrated no enduring commitment to any principle other than the advancement of your political career. This makes me doubt that you have either the courage, or the character, to meet the challenge of finding a diplomatic solution to this crisis. If, as I expect, you eventually order American soldiers to attack Iraq then it is God who will have to forgive you. I will not.

The writer, a professor of education at the University of Wisconsin, contributed this to The New York Times. This was reprinted from the Herald Tribune.

Avenues open and untried

Following is the text of the letter that the American women living in Jordan sent to American President George Bush on Aug. 20.

Mr. President,

We, as American wives and mothers of Jordanians, appeal to our government to do its utmost to search for a diplomatic solution to this explosive situation that has developed in the Middle East.

We would like to make clear that we are opposed to any country's acquisition of territory by force as in the case of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, yet we are shocked at your lightning military response in the area which pre-empted any diplomatic negotiations. By your actions we feel you are contributing to greater instability and turmoil in the region, and we feel your motives are solely to protect your access to and control of Arab oil.

King Hussein's continuous attempts at diplomacy are being undermined and regarded as irrelevant which surprises us as he has always been hailed as a moderate statesman and ally of the West. We are shocked and distressed at the sudden desertion and criticism of Jordan and King Hussein by these same allies.

We appeal to you, Mr. President, to solve this problem by peaceful means. Diplomatic avenues have not been exhausted, they have barely been tried.

[One hundred and forty six signatures.]

LETTERS

To the Editor:

Has the U.S. State Department learned nothing from the suez crisis of 1956 and the tragedy of Vietnam? The sight of ageing carriers creaking through the Suez Canal reminds us of the Falkland Islands misadventure. Mr. Bush has sent the Marines to Saudi Arabia. Why?

They say that president Saddam Hussein of Iraq is mad. If this is so, then the West has been playing the fool to the King Lear of Baghdad for years, by selling him lethal arms. It is ironic that during the Lithuanian crisis last April, Mr. Bush was so slow to help Vytautas Landsbergis, who was only a music professor from Vilnius. Now that cash on the barrel is at stake, Mr. Bush moves rapidly indeed.

The New York Times calls this an emergency; but it is not a crisis yet. If President Hussein becomes a martyr to Arab nationalism, the Saudi oil fields are crippled, and young soldiers killed, it shall indeed become a crisis. And, another tragedy.

The blood of the young, both Arab and Western, is more precious than oil.

Yours truly,
Valdi Inken
39 Altamont Road,
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Canada

Iran drops bombshell at OPEC

(Continued from page 1)

efforts to make an increase in OPEC production conditional on action by the IEA.

It takes the view that Western governments will not use their strategic stocks, and that oil companies will be reluctant to draw too hard on their private inventories until they are sure there will not be a war in the Gulf. An IEA official in Paris said earlier on Tuesday that Iran's position was not likely to force a decision to use strategic petroleum reserves.

The question now, delegates said, was whether Iran's new proposal, which Agazadeh said he had not yet made to fellow ministers, would further delay an

accord or even command support among potential waverers.

First reaction from Saudi Arabia was likely to be that it did not like the idea of postponing the OPEC talks but that the suggestion of a joint session with the IEA was innovative and deserved study.

Iran's critics may accuse it of spoiling tactics and of simply wanting to enjoy high oil prices. These have lately been above \$30 per barrel because of tension in the Gulf — after a price of only \$15 in a glut earlier this year.

Industry sources say Saudi Arabia has the spare capacity to raise its output by 1.5 million to two million barrels per day, and that Venezuela and the UAE

could add about half a million each by the year end.

But the sources say a tight market could develop with the approach of the northern winter if some four million barrels daily of Iraqi and Kuwaiti supply remain cut off.

Delegates said Iran believed Saudi Arabia's quest for cheaper oil was partly a political gesture to Washington and a means of encouraging a worldwide trade embargo on Iraq, which has massed troops on the Saudi border.

Iran was worried that if OPEC put too much oil on the market now and the Gulf crisis ended quickly without a reduction in stocks, a new glut in supplies could develop.

Iran has favoured a policy of high prices and lower output. Western industry sources say it has a limited capacity to increase production itself, although Iran disputes this.

Saudi Arabia has sought to ensure oil supplies to the industrialised world at prices that would not encourage consumers to adopt conservation measures or alternative fuels.

Iran's Agazadeh told reporters after the market monitoring committee session was proposed: "I will not participate."

He added he was leaving the hotel where OPEC ministers have been holding informal talks since Sunday to "go for a walk."

Image problem dogs Bush as he turns up Gulf heat

By Gene Gibbons
Reuters

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine — U.S. President George Bush is under fire for staying on holiday and catching fish while the Gulf crisis hovers close to war.

He has been fishing, boating and golfing in this picturesque New England coastal resort while thousands of Americans are trapped in Kuwait and Iraq and many more thousands face blazing heat and possible combat in the deserts of Saudi Arabia.

"No one watching history unfold on this beautiful coast can avoid thinking how the men and women Bush has sent to the airless heat of the Arabian desert would welcome even five minutes of furlough time in the windspray on Walker's Point," syndicated columnist David Broder wrote last week.

Much tougher criticism came from a University of Wisconsin professor whose marine son was ordered to the Gulf.

In a letter to Bush that appeared in the New York Times, Alex Molnar wrote that it was "both callous and ridiculous" for the commander-in-chief to be "chasing golf balls and zipping around in your boat" at such a time.

Bush, who has forged a remarkable international political alliance in a bid to roll back Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, has got high marks for statesmanship in the biggest test of his presidency.

Walker's point, where Bush has vacationed every summer of his life since 1944, when he

was flying World War II combat missions as a navy pilot, is an 11-acre (4.5-hectare) Atlantic Oceanfront estate complete with tennis court and swimming pool.

Although the U.S. leader has pursued his favourite leisure pastimes, his grim demeanour has been a clear sign that he is preoccupied with events in the Gulf.

He has occasionally been testy when reporters have asked him about events in the Gulf during his frequent outings here.

"Later" the normally affable 66-year-old president snapped when he was questioned as he left church on Sunday morning.

Bush, who has returned briefly to Washington twice since coming to Maine on Aug. 10 and who plans a third short trip back on Tuesday, brushed off the complaints at a news conference last week.

"I don't think we've reached the point where I want to call on everyone in the recreation industry to shut it down or everyone that's taking a vacation in America to shut it down," he said when asked if he would set a personal example during the Gulf crisis in conserving energy.

"I tell you, the situation in the Gulf is a serious matter that weighs on everybody's mind constantly... This is a matter that is constantly with him (Bush)," Marlin Fitzwater, the president's principal spokesman, said.

"The president is doing a lot of work here... but the fact is that getting out in the boat once in a while is a way to get

at least a few minutes of distraction and clear your mind and get some perspective, and I submit that that's far superior to being locked up in the White House and having nothing else to think about all day long," Fitzwater said.

Bush, who on Monday holds Gulf-related talks with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in Kennebunkport, was buoyed by the United Nations Security Council vote giving him a green light to use force if necessary to choke off trade with Iraq.

White House officials said Bush decided to carry on with his vacation because he wanted to distinguish himself from former President Jimmy Carter, who became a virtual prisoner in the White House during the 1979-1981 Iran hostage crisis.

He also wants some rest and relaxation before beginning an arduous autumn schedule during which he will travel extensively to campaign for Republican candidates in the November elections.

Yet another factor, according to aides, is Bush's desire to spend some time with his increasingly frail of 87-year-old mother, who has a home at Walker's Point.

"If Bush's Gulf strategy succeeds, the question of where he was standing when he ordered up the reserves will properly fade into insignificance," Broder wrote. "If it fails, then there's not a doubt in the world that the Democratic (presidential) nominee will be heard saying, 'I will never order American troops into a war zone and go off on vacation the next day.'"

Coping with a 'human sea' west of Amman

By Ali Masarwah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Thousands of refugees of various nationalities, most of them east Asians, are pouring into the grounds of the Amman International Fair daily, according to figures given out by the Hashemite Jordanian Charitable Society.

The society, which was set up under the patronage of Crown Prince Hassan to deal with problems arising from the continuing influx of refugees into Jordan, is the main organiser and coordinator on site at the Amman International Fair.

Since being turned into a "refugee camp" one week ago, the complex is forced to accommodate an ever growing flood of labourers arriving from Kuwait and Iraq with no end in sight.

"Yesterday there were about ten thousand people on the grounds of the fair. By now, their number has risen to about 18,000," Anas Shana'a, a student who is performing voluntary work at the fair, said.

Various local and international organisations in addition to government ministries are contributing to the efforts of the Jordanian Hashemite Charitable Society by providing food, tents, blankets, medicine and other urgently needed commodities.

"It's quite remarkable how promptly help was extended by U.N. organisations, local societies and residents of the area," Hisham Al Ish, a bank employee turned volunteer told the Jordan Times.

Among the basic services offered to the refugees are two clinics, set up by the Health Ministry and the UNICEF, a kitchen which hands out snacks and offers warm meals, water, pumped up from a well and lavatories, which were hastily set up by voluntary workers.

The sanitary conditions at the fair, though not immaculate, were described to be "satisfactory regarding the circumstances" by relief workers.

"When 18 thousand people are herded together in a place as small as this one with limited sanitary facilities available, there are bound to be problems, but all in all the hygienic situation is quite good," a relief worker said. "There is enough water for everybody, and the lavatories and medical services provided by the doctors on site prevent the spreading of infections and diseases," he added.

While facilities and services

Iran arrests 20 opposition members

NICOSIA (AP) — About 20 members of an Iranian opposition group have been arrested for "creating dissatisfaction" and more detentions are likely, the official Iranian news agency, IRNA, reported.

Ali Fallahiyan, Iran's minister of security and intelligence, told reporters at a news conference that those arrested were members of the Association for the Defence of the Iranian People's Sovereignty and Freedom Movement.

The Freedom Movement, headed by former Iranian Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, is the only visible opposition inside Iran.

Bazargan, 83, was the first prime minister of the Islamic republic after it was established in 1979. He is known to be a pious Muslim with a large following among Tehran's powerful, affluent, merchant community.

Eight members of the Freedom Movement were arrested in June after 90 members signed a scathing open letter to President Hashemi Rafsanjani, calling for the restoration of constitutional rights.

A source at the time said the letter, which shook the government, called Bazargan the "only voice of conscience inside Iran."

Those arrested in June appeared on television reading a statement saying that the group had been directed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Fallahiyan said Monday that confessions obtained from those arrested would lead to more being rounded up.

He said the "groupies" aimed to "wage psychological warfare against the Islamic republic officials" by repeating information disseminated by "counterrevolutionaries abroad" and the Voice of America.

He said Iran's security services had identified and crushed "U.S. espionage networks" in the country.

APPEAL

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The children of Jordan appeal for providing milk, food and medicine supplies for the children of Iraq.

This appeal comes on the eve of convening the world summit for children in which many leaders of the world's countries will take part to protect childhood.

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GUVS - Mafraq Governorate	(04)432040

Donations are received daily until 7:00 p.m.

Saddam: Women, children can leave

(Continued from page 1)

Britons and more than 60 Americans from Kuwait to strategic locations for use as "human shields" against a possible Western attack. Iraq has prevented thousands of foreigners stranded in Iraq and Kuwait by the invasion from leaving.

Saddam also complained that the international trade embargo against Iraq was reducing food and medicine supplies in his country.

"When food is cut off from a society then you're actually choking the society to death," Saddam told one of the Western hostages.

The Iraqi leader's television appearance Tuesday was his second with Western hostages. The first, in which he was shown last Thursday with an all-British group, was fiercely denounced by Western government.

"We read some of the criticism that was thrown at us by some British politicians," Saddam told Tuesday's multi-national group of about 25. "I don't see why they were annoyed."

"It seems to me those officials were annoyed by my meeting with the British group because they do not want the facts to be told except by them and through their channels."

Saddam, in a grey business suit, shook hands with the hostages and patted children on the head before sitting alone and solemn in a formal armchair to speak and answer questions.

He said the hostages were there to save the lives of many more women and children, both in Iraq and in Middle East countries allied with the West, who would die if war broke out.

Some of the hostage children appeared to fall asleep. Saddam noticed and joked: "They don't understand politics."

"I am prepared now, really prepared, for direct talks, dialogue, with Mr. Bush and Mrs. Thatcher, immediately," Saddam told them.

"To let the world know everything about the whole situation, let us have the debate between me and them on television for the whole world to see."

The United States said Saddam's call was sick.

"The idea that the president of the United States and the prime minister of the United Kingdom would enter into a public TV debate — there's nothing to debate — the debate is long over," said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

"It's sick, and it doesn't even deserve a response," she added.

In his meeting Tuesday, Saddam explained his position for holding them to prevent a military attack from the West.

"I appreciate your feelings, which probably make you feel restricted because you are not allowed to go," Saddam said through a translator.

"Our position is a very difficult one. It is not an easy one," he said.

"If I were in your place or my family was in your place, I'd have the same feelings," Saddam told the West-

terners.

"But politicians are forced sometimes to take a position that goes beyond what they see directly in front of them."

"For instance," the Iraqi leader said, "if it were to do with feelings of humanity, towards us as such then I would immediately say you could leave and go back to your families."

"But when we put the issue in a larger context, involving much greater numbers of people and their destiny, be they foreigners or Iraqi, if we place matters in this larger context in the event, God forbid, of a military clash between Iraq and armies of countries that have come to the area..."

"If we visualise the losses that would result from such a clash, and if along with this also suppose that your presence here for this period of time would be among the factors that would prevent such a collision, we would find ourselves in a situation in which we are forced to take the sort of decision that we have taken, to have the situation in which we are now."

He said that situation forced Iraq to keep a number of foreigners "in order to prevent the death of many more foreigners if war were to erupt."

"Of course, if the war were to erupt, many Iraqis would also die," Saddam said, but in his country they would be considered martyrs because they would be defending their own country.

He told the Westerners that "economic and scientific" installations where they were held operated 24 hours a day and it was clear that they would be prime target in case of attack.

Earlier Saddam announced he was releasing a British family in honour of their daughter's birthday.

The meeting was more formal than his first televised discussion with hostages. Saddam, in a grey suit, sat in a chair on his own, a bowl of flowers in front and the Iraqi flag behind.

Saddam faced several questions from the unidentified hostages including a request for him to release trapped women and children. His response was unclear.

Brazilians 'kept back'

Iraq is refusing to let a team of Brazilian missile experts reportedly working on a top-secret Iraqi project leave the country, a magazine said Monday.

Veja, Brazil's largest newsweekly, said in its latest issue that 23 engineers led by retired air force Major General Hugo de Oliveira Piva were denied permission to leave Iraq for security reasons.

The magazine cited an unidentified Iraqi diplomat as saying the Brazilians "know military secrets and cannot leave the country."

The weapon in question is reported to be the Piranha air-to-air missile, modelled after the U.S. Sidewinder missile. But a spokeswoman for Piva's company denied its people had been working on a missile system.

The government said Monday it could not confirm the report of stranded weapons experts.

"We have no confirmation the engineers are there or that Iraq is discriminating between military advisers and others," Foreign Ministry spokesman Jose Vicente

Pimentel said.

Pimentel said Baghdad had granted 200 exit visas for Brazilians in Iraq. He said only half had been used, but blamed lack of tape. Most of the granted exit visas were for embassy officials, heavy equipment sales personnel, and workers for private construction companies building railroads and highways.

The Iraqi embassy spokesman in Brazil, Nabil Nasser, said there was no confirmation that Brazilian military advisers were working for Iraq. Brazil's air force minister, Gen. Socrates Monteiro, echoed that statement.

However, no one challenged that Brazil and Iraq have had close military ties for at least a decade.

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EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SPLIT

Tiny Portuguese braves heat, Soviet challenge to win marathon

SPLIT, Yugoslavia (AP) — Tiny Portuguese Rosa Mota had to brave the Mediterranean heat and a tough challenge from a Soviet runner to win an unprecedented third consecutive European women's marathon title.

"It was a difficult to run on such a hot day," the 32-year-old said after clocking 2 hours, 31 minutes, 27 seconds on the sweltering hot course through the picturesque streets of this central Adriatic city Monday.

Mota, who has won 12 of her 17 marathons including the European gold in her first marathon in 1982, again in 1986, and world and Olympic titles, had to fight off a tough challenge from Valentina Yegorova of the Soviet Union.

With about 8 kilometres remaining in the 42-kilometre race, Yegorova caught up with Mota who appeared tired and suffering with pains.

"I decided to slow down a little since I felt stomach pains, and at one point I thought that I could lose the race," Mota, who weighs only 47 kilograms, said.

"I started a little bit too fast. I forgot about the heat. It seemed like Yegorova would beat me and it scared me a little bit. But later everything was OK," Mota said.

At race time, the temperature was 25° Centigrade (77° Fahrenheit) and by the halfway point it had risen to 27° (81°). The humidity averaged 60 per cent.

"Rosa is unbeatable. She controlled the race and I felt I could not do better than the second place," Yegorova said after clocking two hours 31.32 minutes.

"The last 10 kilometres were like hell," said France's Maria Rebelo-Leitao who finished third

in 2:35.51. Mota, who has had a history of controversial disputes with the Portuguese Athletic Federation, said that her latest gold medal "is a gift to my country."

Twenty-five runners took part in the race.

Antibo wins men's 10,000

In the men's 10,000 metre was dominated by Salvatore Antibo of Italy who ran an incredible race, taking the lead from the very first strides and soon extending it to over 200 metres.

With the other competitors out of contention, Antibo came down the homestretch blowing kisses and waving happily to the cheering crowd, winning in 27:41.27 minutes. In a sprint for second place much later, Are Nakkim of Norway clinched the silver in 28:04.04 with Stefano Mei of Italy, the defending champion, third in 28:04.46.

"For years I have been one of the leading distance runners in the world, but this is my first major triumph. And I really like it," Antibo said.

In a major upset, Astrid Kumbernuss of East Germany, at 20 competing in her first big event, beat world and Olympic champion and world record holder Natalia Lisovskaya of the Soviet Union in the women's 5,000 metre, the third gold at stake Monday.

Kumbernuss had 20.36 metres, to Lisovskaya's 20.06. Kathrin Neimke of East Germany came in third place at 19:56.19.

The championships, which run through Saturday, will award 43 golds, 24 for the men and 19 for the women.

Plaziat leads in decathlon
Meanwhile Christian Plaziat,

seeking his first major championship medal, held the lead after the first three decathlon disciplines on the second day of the European Athletics Championships Tuesday.

The Frenchman, unbeaten since the 1988 Seoul Olympics, was fastest in the 100 metres with 10.72 seconds, second in the long jump with 7.77 metres and eighth in the shot put with 14.19 metres.

The result for his morning's efforts was a total of 2,666 points and a lead of 59 points over Spain's Antonio Penalver.

Penalver was the only competitor to better 16 metres for the shot, putting 16.01 metres with his final effort.

Olympic champion Christian Schenk was also happy with his third and last put.

The East German recorded 15.59 and punched the air in delight as he jumped to third place in the overall standings with 2,577 points.

Rodion Gataulin, whose duel with Soviet team mate Sergei Bubka is expected to be one of the highlights of the championships, had a scare in the pole vault qualifying round.

Gataulin, the Olympic silver medalist, failed twice at 5.40 metres before succeeding with his third and final attempt. Olympic and world champion Bubka, whose form has not been convincing this year, was the leading qualifier with 5.50 metres.

Overnight thunderstorms drenched the Poljud Stadium and a shower shortly after competition started Tuesday briefly interrupted the pole vault.

The rain soon cleared and by mid-morning the sun was burning fiercely on the athletes and the scattered groups of spectators

cheering on their decathlete favourites.

Swedish champion injured

In a separate development, Sweden's world high jump champion, Patrik Sjöberg, will miss the European Athletics Championships after sustaining a thigh injury in his final training session.

Sjöberg strained a muscle in his last practice jump Monday evening before he was to leave for Split and is under doctors' orders to rest for up to eight weeks, Swedish athletics team captain Björn Sören said Tuesday.

"Patrik was very depressed when he told me the news... He doesn't want to talk about the future at all," Sören said.

Sjöberg, who set a world record of 2.42 metres in 1987 and became world champion in Rome later that year, underwent Achilles tendon surgery last winter and has displayed uneven form so far this season.

The current world record of 2.44 metres is held by Javier Sotomayor of Cuba.

Backley record recognised

The International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) will ratify Steve Backley's world javelin record at its first 1991 meeting in January in San Sebastian, Spain, a spokesman said Monday.

"The record was made with a fully approved javelin and in absolutely regular condition," said Franco Fava, head of the IAAF press office. "The IAAF council has no reason not to ratify it at its first session in 1991, when all records for the previous year are considered."

Backley's record of 90.98 metres was set in London on July 20.

Gilbert outlasts Wilander on 1st day of U.S. Open

NEW YORK (AP) — The longest day session in U.S. Open history, 13 hours of tennis and thunderstorms, ended early Tuesday morning with Brad Gilbert outlasting 1988 champion Mats Wilander in a four-set thriller.

Only a few hundred stalwart, sometimes yawning fans remained from the record crowd of 21,863 when the eighth-seeded Gilbert won the final point of opening day to beat Wilander 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 in just over three hours shortly after midnight.

Wilander, who has dropped to No. 59 in the rankings in a year of frustration on the courts, was unseeded. His loss was his earliest ever in nine years at the open.

Gilbert, knocked out in the first round last year, came back from 2-5 down in the fourth set, fought off two set points and completed a string of five straight games to take the match.

Neither rain nor a crafty foe from Spain could stop Boris Becker as he and fellow defending champion Steffi Graf began with victories Monday.

Becker wins on 1st day
Becker, who had been scheduled to play during the day, didn't finish his two-hour match with Juan Aguilera until well into the evening after waiting out a series of thunderstorms that caused three suspensions of play.

After the hard court in the stadium was mopped and wiped dry, Becker attacked the net aggressively and served well to score a 7-5, 6-3, 6-2, win against Aguilera, who beat Becker on clay in Hamburg last May.

Aguilera rarely approached the net, relying instead on solid passing shots, and led Becker 5-3 after breaking him twice in a row in the first set. But Becker won the next four games, capping the set with a service winner that Aguilera could barely pop up out of bounds.

Becker struggled a little in the second set as Aguilera refused to fold easily, but got a break in the seventh game and went on to win easily as Aguilera tired on the muggy evening.

"It was difficult after the long rain delay," Becker said. "It was very humid and that made (the court) slower. The balls got much bigger (because of the moisture). It was difficult at the beginning to adjust. I thought I better get going or I'd be down one set. It was not very happy to be down 5-3."

Graf struggles
Steffi Graf, all business after a summer of little pleasure, wore a dark scowl as she walked on court to begin defence of her title. Minutes later, a blazing sun gave way to black clouds, thunder rocked the stadium and lightning lit up a gray Manhattan skyline in the distance.

Omen or coincidence, Graf's dramatic entrance livened up the tournament's first Monday and reflected her foul mood as she tries to reassert her dominance after defeats in the French Open and Wimbledon.

Graf, the two-time defending U.S. Open women's champion, played faster than usual to beat the oncoming rain and rushed out to a 4-1 lead against an over-matched, exasperated qualifier, 19-year-old Maureen Drake. But after 16 minutes, with the wind whipping papers and hats around the court and a 20-minute down-pour starting, the umpire suspended play.

Graf looked no less grim and determined when she came back an hour later. She won the next two games quickly, then after another 25-minute rain delay won 6-1, 6-1. Altogether, the match took 41 minutes to play, but lasted two hours and 13 minutes.

Graf, 21 and barely clinging to the No. 1 ranking she's held since 1987, grumbled Sunday after struggling to beat 14-year-old Jennifer Capriati in three sets in a run-up tournament. Graf has been besieged by erratic play and problems on and off the court all year. Winning here would go a long way towards putting those problems — a broken thumb, a paternity suit against her father, surgery to clear a nose blockage — behind her.

"The problems definitely started in Berlin with the press reporting a lot of lies about my family," she said before the tournament. "That really hurt me very much. Then, at Wimbledon, the sinuses got so bad I didn't get any air at all from one side of my nose. I felt dizzy on the court. It was awful trying to play."

She said the reports about her father's private life had a far greater effect on her than either the broken thumb, sustained in a ski accident last winter, or the sinuses operation.

A little disheveled and still wearing a serious expression after showering following the match against Drake, Graf expressed sympathy for the teen from Toronto who was making her open debut under difficult circumstances.

"I think she was quite nervous to have a first round like this," Graf said. "I was never nervous (at that age). At a young age you have nothing to lose. You're just getting into the tour. You're relaxed and not afraid."

Seles beats Pampoulova
Third-seeded Monica Seles, who beat Graf in the French final, opened play on the stadium court with a 6-0, 6-0 blitz of Elena Pampoulova.

Tim Mayotte, a former NCAA champion at Stanford ranked ninth in 1987 and 26th now, played as if he is headed quickly for retirement as he lost to 93rd-ranked Thierry Champion of France.

Because the mayor of New York happens to be a tennis fan, the players at the U.S. Open were treated to a new condition at flushing meadows Monday — Quiet.

W. Germany to play Portugal without Littbarski, Haessler

WEST BERLIN (AP) — New West German national team manager Berti Vogts has inherited the best soccer team in the world — along with some of its problems.

Injuries and a tight training schedule have plagued Vogts as he prepares for his debut as successor to Franz Beckenbauer when world champion West Germany meets Portugal for a friendly in Lisbon Wednesday.

The West German squad, in their first match since winning the World Cup with a 1-0 victory over Argentina in July, will play without stars Pierre Littbarski, Klaus Augenthaler, Thomas Haessler and Olaf Thon.

The matchup also comes just three weeks into the Bundesliga season and one week before the start of the Italian League, where six West German national players participate.

"The match is simply poorly timed," said Vogts, 43, himself a former national defender. "We still don't know where we stand with our players in Italy."

West Germany won't begin its European Nations Cup qualifying until May 1 next year against Wales, when the team will be a unified squad with East Germany. Former unification of the two German states is set for Oct. 3.

Of the Italian players, only Karlheinz Riedle of Lazio Rome practiced with the team before leaving Monday for Lisbon.

Vogts also knows he now coaches the team to beat. "We have to learn to live with being the world champions," Vogts said. "We're being hunted. We know what is ahead of us, and we must defend ourselves accordingly."

Littbarski, a 30-year-old midfielder for Cologne, injured his knee in a Bundesliga match against Werder Bremen Saturday. He is also involved in a small scandal concerning the publishing of his private photographs of the World Cup.

Haessler and Thon will also sit out because of injuries. Augenthaler, the 32-year-old veteran national sweeper who has been plagued by injuries, retired from the national squad after the World Cup.

Vogts will rely on Thomas Berthold, 25, of As Roma to fill the sweeper position. World Cup substitute Andreas Moeller, 22, of Frankfurt will spark the midfield.

"I want to see Andy (Moeller) show on an international level what he shows in the Bundesliga," said Vogts of Moeller, who saw only 24 minutes of action at the World Cup.

Vogts has departed from Beckenbauer's strategy of blending experience with young talent by adding several newcomers to the roster.

Leonard renounces WBC title

MEXICO CITY (R) — World Boxing Council (WBC) champion Sugar Ray Leonard has renounced his world super-middleweight title but left open whether he would continue his spectacular boxing career, the WBC said in a statement.

In a telephone call to the WBC's President Jose Sulaiman in Mexico City, Leonard said he had no plans to defend his title and offered his resignation on grounds that he was far below fight weight. Sulaiman accepted his decision, the statement said.

"Jose Sulaiman wants to declare public homage to one of the greatest world champions of all times... the pride of the WBC," the statement said.

It said Leonard, along with Mike Tyson, was unanimously elected as boxer of the 1980s.

"With this distinction, he sits not only amongst the best of his time, but (the best of) 200 years of organised boxing," Sulaiman said.

The WBC said it would confer with executive committee members to decide how the super-middleweight vacancy would be filled.

Leonard, who has announced his retirement from boxing three times before only to return, is undecided whether to retire again.

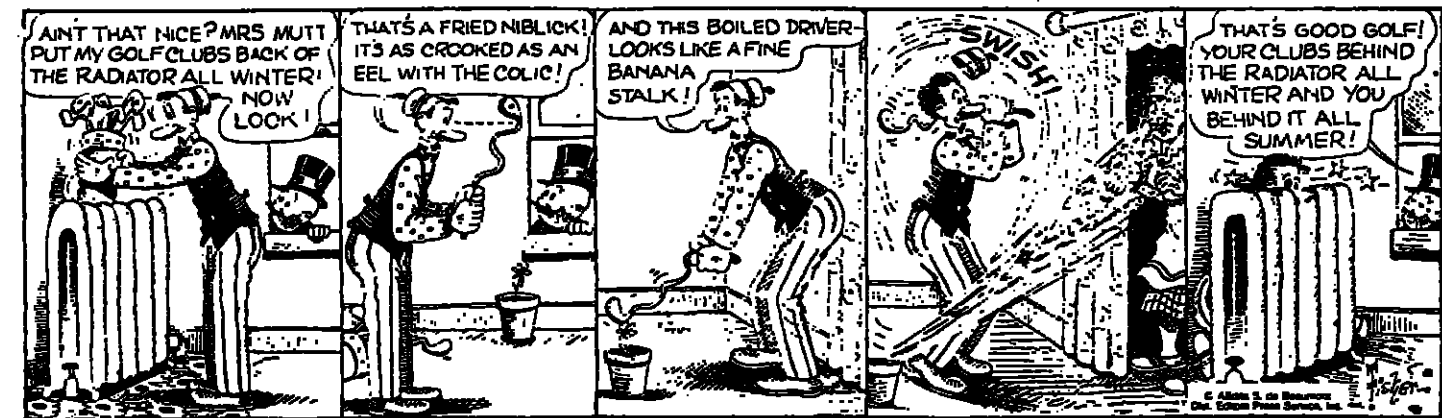
"It's in the balance. He's worried that if he retires again and then returns to fight, people will criticise him," WBC spokesman Eduardo Lamazon told Reuters.

Lamazon said Leonard promised to inform Sulaiman if he was quitting for good.

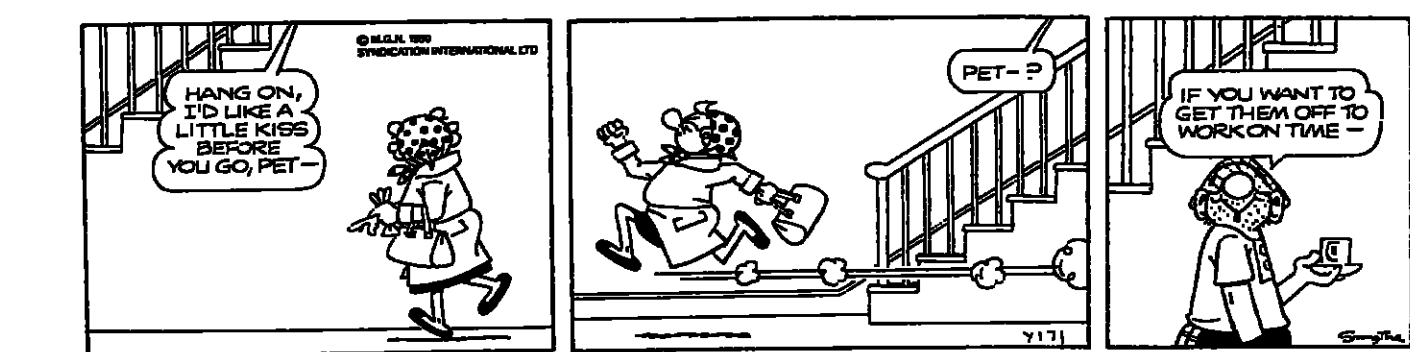
Leonard's professional career spanned 13 years, and he won his first world title fight against WBC champion Wilfredo Benitez in Las Vegas on Nov. 30, 1979.

He went on to win three world title fights in the 1980s, rounding off his career with 37 victories, one draw, and one defeat, the statement said.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



HOROSCOPE

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:
Analyze your holding and what you owe to others and you will come to some very interesting conclusions about how best to operate in the future. Pursue hobbies and recreation with family.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Consider what you can do to increase your business success by the most accepted, proven methods and be careful not to make commitments just yet.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) One who has varied experiences then you in the field of finances is the one for you to consult today and don't rely on your own judgment.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your practical affairs need to be carefully analysed and plans made for later expansion while a secret worry can cause you to act unwisely.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You yourself see how you can improve your position by a greater amount of deliberation and planning for the days ahead.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A long time companion in recreations has some very good ideas for your future enjoyment and listen to that person instead of a money-conscious worldly person.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider from every aspect what you can do to make conditions at your residence more satis-

factory and sidestep a newcomer who tends to restrict you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think about your usual companions and what you can do to make conditions more as they wish over a period of time; don't get excited over a money matter.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The attention you pay to the practical part of your life will today bring you the best possible results and don't pursue outside egoist.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think over what interests you for a considerable period of time to come and tread your efforts in that direction, putting off dull chores that would interfere.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You feel impelled to make some decisions about partners and that's all right; you consider them for your constant contact but don't get into costly pleasures.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Getting out from under some pressing obligation and arranging vocational duties to your liking is fine but don't let family sidetrack this desirable way.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have a good chance now to understand just what friends, acquaintances and your mate expect of you over a period of time so stay close to them.

THE BETTER HALF.



JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YOGGS

CHAVO

GREAT

VISTEN

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

Yesterday's Jumble: BIRCH TAFFY CHISEL ORPHAN

Answer: It was the talk of Paris! — "FRENCH"

(Answers tomorrow)

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Answer:

World's fastest growing region faces fallout from Gulf crisis

HONG KONG (AP) — The crisis in the Middle East will slow down the engine of world growth, the Asia Pacific region, provoking higher inflation and possibly political unrest in the Philippines, analysts predict.

But a region-wide recession is unlikely because of growing trade within the area and a belief that its most vital economy, Japan's, will not falter, economists said.

"We are facing a slowdown," said Samuel Moon, an economist in Hong Kong. "Let's hope the crisis doesn't last too long."

Already, the Philippines, Taiwan, Hong Kong and South Korea have cut their growth forecasts because of Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait, which sent oil prices to more than \$30 a barrel.

In South Korea, people were stocking up on kerosene to heat their homes. In Bangkok, the stock exchange installed television sets and broadcast news bulletins to stop rumours from affecting the plummeting market.

A Taiwanese man, apparently saddened by large losses on the Hong Kong stock exchange, stopped traffic for seven hours while he stood on a ledge of Hong Kong's Swire Mandarin Oriental Hotel. He was later hospitalised for self-inflicted stab wounds.

Analysts say the main beneficiaries of the crisis would be Malaysia, Indonesia and China, the only substantial oil exporters in the region.

China, sorely strapped for foreign exchange since its bloody June 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators, needs the money to bolster its economy.

But those gains could be offset by a decrease in export earnings from manufactured goods if countries in the West, especially the United States, suffer a recession.

Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, among others, would also be hurt by a U.S. downturn.

Vietnam could become a big winner.

Analysts in Hong Kong point to increasing economic pressure on the United States to drop its 15-year-old embargo on trade with Vietnam and allow U.S. firms to search for oil off Vietnam's coast.

"This is a golden opportunity for the U.S. to open ties to Vietnam," said Ranjan Paul, an economist at Business International, an economics consulting firm. "Diversifying America's oil supplies would be an excellent justification."

Hardest hit will be the Philippines, already barely coping with a string of natural and political disasters.

A coup attempt in December and an earthquake in July cut government projections of economic growth from four per cent to three per cent. Factor in a rise in oil prices, and economists at

American farmers lose lucrative Iraqi market

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (Agencies) — The Middle East crisis is confronting farmers, the U.S. Treasury and taxpayers with costs that go far beyond the rising price of oil.

For farmers, rising oil prices take a heavy toll because petroleum is not only their fuel but the basic ingredient in many agricultural chemicals.

And the American actions after Iraq takeover of Kuwait prompted Iraq to stop payment on nearly \$2 billion it owes the U.S. Treasury for previous agricultural shipments.

For many farmers, the embargo on exports to Iraq means they are cut off from one of their better grain customers at a time when good clients are sorely needed. Baghdad had become a \$1 billion a year buyer of American agricultural products.

The loss of the Iraqi market will be hardest for rice growers and the states where rice is grown, principally Arkansas, California, the Delta states and Texas. Iraq had become one of the world's largest importers of rice, buying most of it from the United States.

Iraq's American purchases of wheat did not loom as large, but they were still important, particularly to states like Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado and Nebraska, where most of the hard red winter wheat favoured by the Iraqis is produced.

Last year the Iraqis bought about one million tonnes of wheat, worth \$164 million, and this year had bought about 500,000 tonnes worth \$89 million, when their credit was suspended.

A further uncertainty for the Treasury involves an unusual three-way deal made before the Iraqi takeover in which Kuwait promised to pay for 200,000 tonnes of American wheat for Egypt.

Government credit guarantees had been temporarily suspended because of a lag in Egyptian payments. Kuwait then came to Egypt's aid, agreeing to lend it the money to pay for the wheat.

Some of that wheat was still on the high seas when Iraq invaded Kuwait, and Agriculture Department officials said. "We are still hopeful that the transaction will go on as planned."

Foreign banks close doors on Gulf banks

DUBAI (R) — Gulf banks are being virtually locked out of international money markets by many foreign banks which are keeping their trading doors firmly shut to the region during the crisis over Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

Regional bankers and brokers said that while the large Saudi domestic money market was showing some signs of life, Gulf banks' lines abroad had been severely curtailed with no sign that overseas banks would relent soon.

Business in Bahrain's offshore banking centre, the only such facility in the Gulf, has been devastated by lost confidence since the Aug. 2 takeover and fears of large Kuwaiti and Iraqi exposure of Bahrain-based banks, they said.

Banks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar and Oman are also having varying degrees of difficulty.

"What is killing the market is that Japanese banks will not only not lend money into the Gulf, they will also not take money from the region," said one Gulf money broker.

Although the Japanese appear to have taken a decision en masse to avoid the Gulf, many European and U.S. banks have also kept their lines closed, bankers said.

"Even some Gulf banks have cut lines to Gulf banks," said one banker.

Brokers estimated that Bahrain money market business was at a fifth of its pre-invasion level.

Hit by a rush of withdrawals after the takeover when the prospect of further Iraqi expansion seemed near, most Gulf banks built up their liquidity — assets that can quickly be turned into cash — to protect themselves from further panic.

The buildup of U.S., European and Arab forces in the Gulf to protect Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states from an Iraqi advance reassured the local markets and the panic subsided.

But fears abroad of war in the Gulf still loom large. Arab banks which found themselves on a U.S. treasury list of banks under review because of their exposure problems and large Kuwaiti or Iraqi holdings have been particularly badly affected.

Although the Treasury subsequently lifted some of them off the worst-affected category, which classified them as blocked entities, they still live under a shadow, bankers said.

"Some are on a knife edge, living day to day," said a Bahrain banker.

Bankers said the line has so far been held largely by the Gulf's central banks, which have always been highly secretive institutions shunning publicity even when some Gulf bankers would have preferred more public support from them.

With the exception of the Bahrain Monetary Authority (BMA), all the Gulf central banks have advised their banks to meet all cash demands, and have backed them with liquidity.

A UAE central bank official said Tuesday the UAE authorities would pump half a million dollars a week into each of the country's 40 local and foreign banks to meet continuing demand for dollars.

"The move is intended to ease public fears about the financial situation, which remains strong and sound," said Ahmed Fouladi, head of the bank's investment department.

There is still irritation at the BMA's advice to banks that they not allow investors to break time deposits before maturity. The BMA said it acted to restore order to the market.

"So why put funds offshore Bahrain again? said a UAE-based corporate finance director.

Saudi banks have been more active and brokers reported business had picked up in the Saudi rial market.

"We were all so long on dollars, long on riyals, we started wondering what to do with it," said a Saudi bank chief dealer, who said he had started taking positions again.

Gulf banks are pinning their hopes on the prospect of an Iraqi defeat in Kuwait without a shooting war.

"Heads are coming above the parapet but at the first shot, everyone's heads will disappear damned fast," a Gulf broker said.

Federated, Allied report losing \$49 million

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Federated and Allied Department store chains, which are in reorganisation, have said that they lost \$49.2 million during the five weeks ending July 7, but added that the loss was less than expected.

Federated and Allied, which own Bloomingdale's Lazarus and the Bon Marche, among other store groups, reported total sales for the five-week period of \$608 million.

The reported figures compare with a \$27.2 million loss for the four-week period ending June 2, when sales of \$502.4 million were reported.

Federated Department Stores Inc. and Allied Stores Corp. asked for federal chapter 11 bankruptcy protection from their creditors on Jan. 15, citing \$7.7 billion in debt, much of it remaining from their take-over by Toronto-based Campeau Corp.

"Our performance generally continues to be on track with expectations and is consistent with the department store sector overall," Federated and Allied chairman and chief executive officer Allen Questrom said in a prepared statement.

Among Federated divisions, Rich's reported earnings of \$2.3 million for the five-week period, while Burdines had earnings of \$278,000. Bloomingdale's reported a loss of \$199,000 and Lazarus and Abraham and Strauss, which are reported as one division, listed a loss of \$3.3 million.

Among Allied divisions, the Bon Marche reported a \$3 million operating profit, while Maas Brothers reported a \$4 million loss. Jordan Marsh had a \$3.7 million loss and Sterns lost \$953,000.

Saudi Arabia provides all needs of U.S. army

SAUDI ARABIA (Agencies) — A top United States military official has said that the Saudi Arabian government is providing the bulk of the fuel, transportation, food and installations for the thousands of American soldiers sent here.

Maj. Gen. William Pagonis, deputy commander of the central command for logistics, told reporters here that American troops have depended on Saudi assistance since the desert operation began. He added that the United States military is now taking steps to develop some of its own structure and support.

The Saudis, for example, have supplied virtually all the water for American troops here. And General Pagonis acknowledged concerns that the demand for water might exceed the supply as the American force grows.

As a result, the United States is installing desalting equipment to produce at least some of its water, which would be sent to the troops by truck.

To further sustain its forces here, the American military plans to open ports for huge container ships, which will be contracted for commercially.

There are no major depots for American weapons here. Asked if such installations might be created as part of a long-term plan for the defence of Saudi Arabia, General Pagonis said, "I would think that would be a consideration that someone higher than me would decide on."

Such an arrangement, he said, would be costly but would make it easier for the United States to rapidly expand its forces here or to return forces that have been withdrawn.

Former chief of Guinness gets 5-year jail sentence

LONDON (R) — Former Guinness chairman Ernest Saunders was sentenced to five years in jail Tuesday for his part in a share swindle which helped the brewing group win a giant takeover battle four years ago.

Stockbroker Anthony Parnes, known in the stock market as "the animal," collapsed as the judge started sentencing him for assisting the share support scheme which made Guinness appear the stronger suitor in a struggle for Distillers drinks group.

When he recovered, Parnes, who rose from an office boy to one of the London market's sharpest operators, got 2½ years.

Gerald Ronson, a garage and property tycoon and one of Britain's richest men, was given one year in prison and fined £5 million (\$9.7 million). His lawyer had begged the judge to excuse him from jail because of his philanthropic work.

Sir Jack Lyons, 74, an influential financier and friend of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, will be sentenced Sept. 25 after he has undergone a minor operation.

Since the 1986 deregulation of London's financial markets, known as the "Big Bang," Britain has had a series of insider dealing and financial fraud cases but this is the first to involve a world-famous company and top businessmen.

The "financial trial of the century" has put big business ethics on the stand. Even the trial judge said the case gave a chance to impose some order on the predators of the big-business jungle and protect small investors from rich cheats.

The 112-day trial, Britain's costliest, was laden with tales of boardroom greed, arrogance and lost for power in pursuit of the £2.7 billion (\$5.25 billion) bid for Distillers in 1986.

Stock prices in Far East rise

TOKYO (R) — Signs of easing Middle East tension Tuesday spurred stocks on Far East markets, pushed down gold and oil prices and boosted the yen against the U.S. dollar.

Share prices rose across the region, from Tokyo to Singapore, from Sydney to Seoul. Markets reacted cheerily to big overnight gains on Wall Street and the perception that, with a U.N. peace mission going to the Gulf, war might be averted.

Yen-denominated gold futures hugged their floor prices all day, closing the limit 80 yen per gramme down. Plunges in New York prices to near three-week lows over Gulf mediation efforts triggered disappointed selling by individuals and trade houses alike.

Crude oil prices dropped more than \$1 in Far East trade after a U.S. television report that Iraq had pulled back front-line troops from the Kuwait-Saudi border.

The quoted price of benchmark Brent crude for October loading was quoted at \$25.45, 90 cents down on late U.S. trading Monday.

The dollar, meanwhile, fell through the 143-yen level in Tokyo for the first time since January, recovering slightly later to end at 143.20.

Dealers said the U.S. currency was weak because, with the chance the Gulf crisis could reach a diplomatic solution, the markets were going back to earlier worries about fundamental U.S. economic ills.

"Basically, there is no reason to favour the dollar if it wasn't for the Gulf crisis," said Takeshi Nobuto, a senior manager at Sanwa Bank in Tokyo.

"People are biding time, waiting for (military conflict) to happen, the dollar to rise on this tension, and to grab that opportunity to sell," he noted.

"There is some feeling that the Middle East crisis may not be as bad as once expected," said Yoshiko Okabe, senior manager at Midland Bank here.

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The School is presently accepting registrations for the September term. The school will also be open for registrations everyday in July and August between the hours of 9.00 and 12.00 noon. The new term begins on Sunday 9th September.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES				
Tuesday, August 28, 1990 Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	655.0	659.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	457.0
Pound Sterling	1274.1	1281.7	Dutch guilder	374.9
Deutschmark	422.3	424.8	Swedish crown	114.7
Swiss franc	514.0	517.1	Italian lira (for 100)	57.0
French franc	125.9	126.7	Belgian franc (for 10)	206.0

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.			
	Buy	Sell	
One Sterling	1.9490/9500	U.S. dollar	1.5480/85
One U.S. dollar	1.1390.1400	Canadian dollar	1.7415/25
	1.5480/85	Deutschmarks	1.7800/90
	1.7415/25	Dutch guilders	31.78/83
	1.7800/90	Swiss francs	5.1850/1900
	31.78/83	Belgian francs	1146/1147
	5.1850/1900	French francs	143.20/30
	1146/1147	Italian lire	5.7025/75
	143.20/30	Japanese yen	5.9925/75
	5.7025/75	Swedish crowns	5.9175/9225
	5.9925/75	Norwegian crowns	392.40/90
One ounce of gold	392.40/90	Danish crowns	
		U.S. dollars	

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Big powers at Security Council reach agreement on Cambodia

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. Security Council's five permanent members have reached agreement on a comprehensive political settlement they hope will end the fighting in Cambodia.

"This is important progress because it has taken eight months for the five to do it," one diplomat said Monday.

If accepted by the Cambodian combatants, the plan would give the United Nations a key role in a country whose citizens have known few moments of peace in the past 20 years.

Officials from the five powers, the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France, negotiating in New York, stressed that the plan was still a framework and not a detailed blueprint to meet every contingency.

They said the fighting was not expected to stop until agreement was reached among the four Cambodian factions — the Phnom Penh government of Hun Sen and the Khmer Rouge guerrillas who are in a loose coalition with two non-Communist groups, nominally headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The non-Communists Tuesday welcomed the agreement by the U.N. Security Council members but no immediate response came

from the Khmer Rouge or from the Vietnamese-backed government.

The five Council members agreed on five papers concerning an interim government, the military situation, free elections and guarantees for the neutrality of a future Cambodia.

Under the plan, the Cambodians are to form a Supreme National Council until elections can be held. The United Nations would verify a ceasefire, supervise disarmament of the factions, help organise elections and make sure all Vietnamese forces have left Cambodia, diplomats said.

In addition, the United Nations might eventually supervise five key ministries. But this would depend on how smoothly a Supreme National Council functioned, the diplomats said.

In a complicated disarmament procedure, the five proposed that the armies of each faction regroup in cantonments and store their weapons together, they said.

During the first phase, they would have access to their own arms but not carry them around. In the second phase both the combatants and the United Nations would have access and in the third phase all weapons are supposed to be under U.N. control.

The five powers have met six times since January, alternating between Paris and New York.

All factions vying for power in Cambodia are invited to a conference in Jakarta in mid-September under the chairmanship of France and Indonesia, who led the 1989 Paris conference on Cambodia.

Key to the peace process is the composition of the Supreme National Council, which is to be chosen by the Cambodian factions but not necessarily represent them in equal parts.

The council would nominally govern Cambodia but might hand crucial powers over to the United Nations until free elections could be held, the diplomats said.

It would, however, take Cambodia's seat at the United Nations, currently controlled by the exile government.

The United States has already withdrawn its support from the coalition. But a shift is expected on the U.N. in the General Assembly in September or October if the Cambodians have not formed the Supreme National Council.

However, the Cambodian combatants have been plagued by the problem of power-sharing in all past negotiations.

The Khmer Rouge, held responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Cambo-

dians until the Vietnamese invaded and overthrew them in 1979, had suggested seats on the council be divided evenly among the four factions. Hun Sen wants his followers to hold half of the seats.

"We welcome the resolution because we think it is the best way to lead to an agreement on the formation of a Supreme National Council," Jeng Monly, secretary general of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), told Reuters.

The KPNLF and supporters of exiled Prince Norodom Sihanouk, backed by the West but facing increasing criticism for their alliance with the hated Khmer Rouge, have most to gain from a strong U.N. role.

Both factions are weak on the battlefield and hold sway in only a handful of towns.

"We are happy with the permanent five resolution and that is the resolution we would be working on," said one Sihanoukist official who asked not to be identified.

The non-Communist officials said their factions would be ready to attend new round of peace talks in Jakarta.

One said an Indonesian official was in Phnom Penh seeking the approval of Prime Minister Hun Sen before announcing the talks.

Romanian president scorns coup claim

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanian President Ion Iliescu Tuesday brushed aside a renewed claim that the bloody overthrow of Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu last December was a coup, not a revolution.

In a statement in the leading newspaper Adevartul, he said only a "genuine social explosion" could have toppled Ceausescu, who was executed with his wife Elena on Christmas Day after Iliescu's National Salvation Front took power amid civil unrest.

It was the first response by Iliescu, an ex-Communist, to an interview in Adevartul last Thursday in which dissident Silviu Brucan and former Defence Minister Nicolae Militaru outlined what they said was their role in a coup plot.

Brucan, once the front's chief ideologue, and Militaru alleged the conspiracy had involved dissident Communists and military and secret police units who saw Iliescu as the best man to succeed Ceausescu as Communist Party chief.

Iliescu told Adevartul: "If we speak of conspiracy, we may just as well speak of several conspiracies."

"From a certain point of view the entire people, deeply dissatisfied with worsening social and economic life, was part of a huge conspiracy against Ceausescu," he said.

He called on Brucan and others to show more "decency and modesty" in discussing their opposition to Ceausescu.

Sources close to Brucan said he planned to make further revelations in a television interview Wednesday.

Chief prosecutor Gheorghe Robu said Brucan will be questioned about his allegations. The coup theory first surfaced shortly after Ceausescu's execution, prompting opposition charges that Iliescu hijacked December's popular uprising to install a neo-Communist regime.

It has been a factor in the instability that has dogged the country despite landslide victories for Iliescu and the front in the May elections.

Bucharest Mayor Stefan Ciurel Tuesday banned demonstrations in the city centre after five nights of clashes between riot police and young anti-Iliescu protesters.

In a decree prepared for publication in Tuesday's edition of the leading newspaper Adevartul, Ciurel said the measure had been taken after "certain meetings" degenerated into acts of destruction and disturbed public peace and order.

Hundreds of young demonstrators chanting for Iliescu to resign skirmished with riot police for five consecutive nights from last Wednesday to Sunday.

Dozens of young demonstrators congregated in the area again Monday night but traffic flowed freely. A passerby was kicked and punched bloody by protesters after an argument but there were no serious disturbances, witnesses said.

Ciurel's decree banned demonstrations from University Square, five other central squares and neighbouring streets "to restore a climate of order and ensure normal living and working conditions for the population of the capital."

City authorities would ensure within 30 days that public meetings could be held in four parks, the edict said.

Many of the protesters have complained that living conditions are little better under Iliescu than they were under Ceausescu.

About 11,000 tractor plant workers in the city of Brasov, north of Bucharest, began an indefinite strike Monday in protest at their inability to meet production quotas and thus ensure full pay because of a shortage of assembly parts.

Pentagon calls SDI test 'partial success'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first of a series of tests of sensors designed to support the Pentagon's "brilliant pebbles" space-based missile defence system achieved only partial success, the Defence Department reported Monday.

The department said that electronic data being sent back to Earth on the functioning of the experiment was cut off in mid flight.

But the Pentagon said the 13-minute experiment, launched Saturday from the Wallops Island, Virginia, flight facility was a beneficial first step in the scheduled series of 12 experimental flights.

The brilliant pebbles component of the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) or Star Wars would place a cluster of small interceptor rockets into Earth orbit, each capable of detecting the launch of hostile strategic missiles.

The interceptor rockets could be ordered to speed toward the

incoming missiles over thousands of miles and destroy them by high velocity impact.

The brilliant pebbles experimental package was launched aboard a black Brant X rocket at 3:04 a.m. (0704 GMT) Saturday. The Pentagon said the expendable rocket and its payload landed as planned in the Atlantic.

The payload was to have been deployed at an altitude of 199 kilometres but Pentagon officials said they do not yet know if that goal was achieved.

"Only a partial set of objectives was achieved due to a premature termination of telemetry," the Pentagon statement said, referring to the interrupted flow of electronic data.

A Pentagon official, who commented on condition he not be identified by name, said programme managers will now try to learn how much of the experiment was completed, using backup sources from an aircraft, a satellite and from radars at Wallops Island.

Canadian army ordered to clear Indian blockade

MONTREAL (AP) — Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa asked the Canadian army Monday to remove barricades at Mohawk communities at Oka and Chateaugay where Indians have been involved in an armed standoff since July.

"I asked the Canadian army to continue their mission (and) to take down the barricades," Bourassa said at a news conference.

The premier said the Mohawks had not been negotiating in good faith.

"I have asked the Canadian army to continue its mission, to take down the barricades" in the communities of Oka and Chateaugay, Bourassa said. The provincial premier made his comments at a news conference in Montreal that was broadcast live on television.

"And I hope in the coming days we will have a resolution to this crisis," Bourassa added.

"He declared war on the Mohawks," said Georges Erasmus, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, a country-wide grouping of Indian bands.

"We have to get back to the table. That's the only thing that's going to avoid bloodshed. The Mohawks are going to defend their territory," he said.

Mohawk officials were not available for comment. The dispute arose when Oka, a town 26 kilometres west of Montreal, planned to expand a golf course onto land the Indians claimed was ancestral. One officer was killed in a gun battle on July 11 when Quebec Provincial Police stormed the barricades. Blame in the death has not been determined.

The federal government agreed to buy the golf course land and

turn it over to the natives, but the Mohawks have since issued much wider demands, including sovereignty.

At the premier's request, the army replaced provincial police at the barricades a week ago.

Gen. John De Chastelain, chief of staff of the Canadian Armed Forces, did not say how or when the army would move, but indicated it would be soon.

"The barricades can and should be taken down peacefully and without the use of force. Certainly the Canadian forces will not do so unless obliged to do so by the (Mohawks)," he said.

He hoped the Mohawks would abandon their positions and allow the army to cart away the pieces, he said.

The commander of the army units involved was drafting his tactical plan Monday night and in keeping with a pledge to make all military movements public, will reveal them, de Chastelain said.

Bourassa made his comments just hours after negotiations were suspended by federal and Quebec government negotiators who rejected Mohawk demands for sovereignty and amnesty for those involved in the July 11 shootout.

Mohawks from the Kahnawake Reserve near Montreal set up barricades on two highways leading to the Mercier Bridge, a major commuter artery into Montreal, in sympathy with the Indians at Oka soon after the shootout.

Tempers have flared over long detours and loss of revenue caused by the blockade of the bridge.

Crowds have tried to stop medical supplies and food from reaching the Mohawks.

Another bomb explodes on Filipino plot anniversary

MANILA (AP) — A series of bombings attributed to military dissidents continued Tuesday on the third anniversary of a bloody coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino, who has warned troops she would "crush these traitors."

Police said no one was injured in the latest explosion, which happened outside an automobile dealership formerly owned by a relative of Aquino.

It was the 17th bombing in the Manila area since Aug. 13, when a blast damaged a gate of a school near the presidential palace. The rebels have denied responsibility for the bombings, but officials say the dissidents are preparing for a new coup attempt.

Tuesday's blast damaged a jeep and shattered windows of the

Mantrader Development Corp., a car dealer in the financial district of Makati.

Makati police detective Marvin Fajilan said the explosion occurred at 2:25 a.m. (1825 GMT Monday) at the firm's parking lot.

The car company was owned by the family of the late businessman Ricardo Lopa, Mrs. Aquino's brother-in-law, said Kurt Bachman, Mantrader general manager.

At least 50 people died in the failed coup attempt of Aug. 28, 1987.

Statements purportedly from rebel soldiers were distributed at the armed forces headquarters on the eve of the anniversary of that mutiny.

Georgians cheer as Lenin statue destroyed

MOSCOW (R) — Thousands of people clapped and cheered as a towering statue of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin crashed to the ground in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi Tuesday, the local news agency Iveria said.

Engineers had laboured through the night under the gaze of 30,000 excited spectators. The revolutionary figure, arm out-

stretched, bailing a golden future, stood defiantly as welding torches failed to pierce the thick bronze skin.

Pneumatic drills proved equally unsuccessful. Finally, ropes were slung around the 20-metre giant and a team of heavy lorries brought it smashing to the ground. The Georgian anthem blared in salute from loudspeakers

set up by nationalists on the Central Lenin Square.

"Hundreds of people lurched upon the statue with hammers and chisels and immediately began chipping off souvenirs. They were clearly delighted," a correspondent of the independent Iveria news agency said by telephone from Tbilisi.

1st group of 'boat people' return home

BANGKOK (AP) — Nguyen Thi Mong Tuyen paid \$117 in gold to flee Vietnam on a broken-down boat with one shirt, a pair of pants, and hopes for a better life abroad.

Those hopes faded in the camps of Thailand. So she returned home Tuesday on a chartered flight, with a new purple blouse and \$50 given her by the United Nations' refugee agency.

Tuyen was one of 52 Vietnamese "boat people" who flew to Ho Chi Minh City from Bangkok Tuesday in the first major repatriation from Thailand organised by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

They came from 13 provinces in southern Vietnam and will return home after spending two or three days in a Vietnamese reception centre.

U.N. officials said this was the first of a series of repatriations, after many years in which only a handful of Vietnamese went back home.

About 120 other boat people staying in Thailand have applied to return, and some of them could leave as early as next month. Thai camps held 13,887 Vietnamese at the end of July.

The 52 Vietnamese returned voluntarily, although many Asian countries have called for the boat people to be forcibly returned. Hong Kong forcibly repatriated 51 boat people last December, but stopped after strong opposition from the United States and human rights groups.

At Bangkok's airport, the Vietnamese — mostly farmers, fishermen and unskilled labourers — squatted or lay down on the tile floor beside their shoulder bags.

Several wore clothes donated by the American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand.

Tuyen, 22, had sailed from Vietnam in January. Her boat, with 44 people aboard, broke down after one week and drifted for two days until a Thai fishing boat came to the rescue.

She said it should be easier to make a living in Vietnam than before, and going back would be better than staying in a detention centre in Thailand.

SUNDSVALL, Sweden (AP) — The Earth is heating up faster than previously documented and it is imperative that nations agree to reduce gases which produce the "greenhouse effect," said scientists who gathered Monday at an international conference on climate change.

"We face warming trends faster than at any time in 10,000 years," said Mustafa Tolba, head of the U.N. Environment Programme, in an opening speech outlining the results of a two-year international climate study.

The conclusion that the Earth is heating by one-third of a degree (Celsius) each decade is one of the most important conclusions of a draft document to be debated at the four-day conference. About 300 government officials, lawyers and scientists from 70 countries are hoping to adopt a final report that would be a basis

for the United Nations action on fighting the "greenhouse effect."

The United States, represented by a 25-man delegation, has objected to some of the preliminary conclusions of the report prepared by 1,000 atmospheric experts from industrialised and developing countries over the past two years.

In the past, U.S. officials have resisted a worldwide ceiling on emissions of carbon dioxide, the gas that scientists believe causes 60 per cent of the "greenhouse effect." The growing layer of carbon dioxide is believed to trap heat from the sun, gradually warming the planet.

The United States produces more carbon dioxide than any country, and 75 per cent of all "greenhouse" gases are emitted by the Western industrialised nations.

U.S. President George Bush is

Sri Lankan Air Force rescues injured troops from Jaffna fort

COLOMBO (R) — A Sri Lankan Air Force helicopter plucked seven badly wounded soldiers from a garrison in a colonial fort besieged and pounded almost daily since June by Tamil separatist rebels, military sources said Tuesday.

The helicopter, covered by other aircraft, delivered eight reinforcements, arms, medical supplies and food in an operation Monday night which a military officer said was over in two minutes.

The garrison of 200 soldiers

and policemen has been holed up in the star-shaped fort in Jaffna town for 11 weeks, ringed by guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who have stepped up their fight for a homeland in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

"It was a precise operation. We took the Tigers almost unawares. The whole thing was over in just two minutes. There was some firing from Tiger positions around," a military officer said.

"We put in new blood into the fort," another officer said refer-

ring to the eight reinforcements flown in. Two of the fort's defenders have died and 17 have been wounded since the siege began.

Monday's operation was the second rescue mission to the fort. The same air force team rescued seven soldiers from the garrison on July 3.

"The causeway has been heavily mined by the terrorists. These have to be removed by special clearing parties. The men have to advance very carefully and slowly," a military officer said.

Haiti president refuses to resign

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — President Ertha Pascal-Trouillot refused Monday to heed calls for her resignation and said elections set for November would be held as scheduled.

On Friday, seven of the 12 political groups that in March appointed Mrs. Pascal-Trouillot provisional president called for her resignation and said they would refuse to participate in elections under her administration. Five cabinet ministers also resigned last week.

"I will not fail to assume all the way to the end the responsibility" of holding elections, Mrs. Pascal-Trouillot said at the installation of her newly constituted 13-minister cabinet.

"No one can believe that deviations from the will of the people," she said, can halt the electoral process. Mrs. Pascal-Trouillot said Mon-

day in a speech broadcast on state radio.

The seven parties had also declared support for the co-governing council of state, which broke off relations with the president on Aug. 14, describing her as an obstacle to credible elections.

The 19-member Council of State, which is supposed to have veto power over Mrs. Pascal-Trouillot, has accused her of abuse of power and of refusing to satisfy popular demands for administrative reform, law and order and economic relief.

On Saturday, the chamber of commerce and several other business groups asked the president to "postpone any decision which requires the approval of the council of state" so as not to aggravate the crisis.

The new cabinet was appointed

without the council's advice and consent.

Mrs. Pascal-Trouillot, a supreme court judge, was appointed president by a political coalition known as the Unity Assembly, which spearheaded opposition to Haiti's last military ruler, Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril. He fled into exile in the United States in March after a week of violent protests.

Although seven of the 12 groups that comprise the Unity Assembly are now calling for her resignation, Mrs. Pascal-Trouillot said the five most important groups remained on her side.

"We must note with satisfaction that important political groups, representative of the majority of the electorate," are on the election trail. Those who refuse elections are "on the periphery of reality," she said.

KGB to open Wallenberg files

MOSCOW (AP) — An international group said Monday the KGB and other Soviet agencies have agreed to open their files to help determine whether Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg died in a Moscow prison decades ago.

Wallenberg is credited with saving tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis during World War II, but vanished after he was arrested in Budapest on spying charges in 1945.

Soviet authorities have long maintained he died in the KGB's Lubyanka Prison in 1947, but Wallenberg's relatives say they have received reports he is alive and detained elsewhere in the Soviet Union. He would now be 77.

"The evidence is incontrovertible that Raoul Wallenberg did not die in 1947, compelling that he was alive in the 50s and 60s, and credible that he was alive thereafter," said Irwin Cotler, a Canadian lawyer who has spent 10 years investigating Wallenberg's fate.

Cotler told a news conference that an international commission is proceeding on the premise that Wallenberg "may still be alive, though possibly under another identity."

Besides Cotler, commission members include Wallenberg's half-brother, Guy Von Dardel; several Soviet journalists and historians; and two former Soviet political prisoners — Cronid Lubarski, an editor, and Marvin Makinen, now chairman of the University of Chicago's Biochemistry Department.

Cotler told reporters at the Swedish embassy that the KGB, the Soviet Foreign Ministry and the Interior Ministry had all agreed to help the commission.

"We have been told that we will be given access to all files on the Wallenberg affairs," he said. "Therefore, I interpret all files to include KGB files."

Cotler said the commission was granted permission to travel Monday to Vladimir Prison, 20 kilometres outside Moscow, where Wallenberg allegedly has been sighted.

Prison officials have agreed to allow commission members to examine their archives — including 10,000 registration cards — and interview present and former inmates, guards and administrators, Cotler said.

Last October, Soviet officials expressed remorse for the first time over the arrest of Wallenberg, a Lutheran who saved an

estimated 20,000 people from Nazi gas chambers by sheltering them and issuing them false passports.

Wallenberg, a member of a prominent family of bankers and industrialists, repeatedly risked his life by hiding people in houses he bought or rented, often with his own money. In the final days before the liberation of Budapest, Wallenberg persuaded the Nazis to cancel a plan to kill 70,000 people who were still living in the city's ghetto.

In 1981, he was made an honorary citizen of the United States. Last fall, KGB deputy chief Vladimir Pirozhkov returned Wallenberg's passport, driver's license, address book, calendar and cash to his family, saying they had been found in KGB headquarters the previous month.

The only proof offered of Wallenberg's death was a doctor's letter, released in 1957, saying Wallenberg suffered a fatal heart attack and was cremated.

"I certainly don't believe that they have given everything there is in the archives," Von Dardel said Monday. "I only hope that the present atmosphere it will not take another 30 years for the next lot to come forward."

COLUMN

Coast Guard rescues Bush and Mulroney

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (R) — President George Bush's speed boat Fidelity broke down a short distance from the president's holiday home here Monday, triggering a Coast Guard rescue of the president and several guests. The Coast Guard had to rescue Bush, his wife Barbara, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Mulroney's wife Mills and another Canadian, the White House said. "There was no need for any special rescue or emergency equipment. There was never any danger to the president or the prime minister," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said in a statement. Fidelity suffered an "alternator burnout," according to the statement. Mulroney was here for an overnight stay mixing business and pleasure before returning to Ottawa.

Samaranch gets Seoul Peace Prize

SEOUL (R) — South Korea has awarded Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch the first Seoul Peace Prize, established to mark the success of the 1988 Seoul Olympics. The head of the Seoul Peace Prize Committee, former Foreign Minister Kim Young-Shik, said Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, contributed to world harmony by bringing together East and West at the 1988 Olympics. The \$300,000 prize, financed by profits from the Seoul games and by a South Korean fund to promote sport, will be awarded every two years to individuals or institutions making contributions to peace through sport, Kim said. South Korea, which rose within a generation from war-ravaged wastelands to an economic power house, spent \$3 billion to make the games a dazzling national coming-of-age party. A record 160 countries took part in the games, which helped stimulate anti-Communist South Korea's ties with the Soviet Union, China, and other communist countries.

Singer threatens to walk out if U.S. anthem played

HOLMDEL, New Jersey (AP) — Irish pop singer Sinéad O'Connor threatened to walk out on a concert if "the star-spangled banner" was played beforehand. She won the battle but lost the war. The national anthem was not played, but the singer known for her skinhead-style haircut was banned from any future performances at the Garden State Arts Centre, officials said. Backstage staff related following O'Connor's ultimatum Friday out of fear that a last-minute cancellation would cause a commotion, said Dennis Ingolia, a spokesman for the New Jersey Highway Authority, which operates the 9,000-seat venue. O'Connor, whose recordings include Nothing Compares 2 U and Mankind, gave no reason for her demand, Ingolia said.

Customers spooked by alleged ghost in Disney video

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Stories of a ghost lurking in a scene in the movie Three Men and a Cradle are scaring up business for video stores nationwide. "It was never a firm believer in ghosts or any thing, but I'll tell you the truth, it made the hair stand up on my arms," said Jon Roup, who works at Network Video in Pittsburgh, which was besieged by requests for the movie. Staff and customers of Music Plus in Marina Del Rey, California, looked for the eerie figure Friday before all copies of the comedy were rented. "Everybody who's walked into the store today wants this movie," said operations manager Ryan Bicknell. Viewers are transfixed by a scene in which Ted Danson and Celeste Holm co-starring as Danson's mother, walk by a window in a home shared by characters portrayed by Danson, Tom Selleck and Steve Guttenberg. Partially obscured in the window is what appears to be many viewers to be a young boy hiding behind a curtain. Some callers claim the figure is the ghost of a child who died in a home where the film was shot. But Disney spokesman Steve Feldstein said viewers actually are looking at a cardboard cutout — called a standup — of a man in top hat and tails. The 1989 movie was filmed on a Toronto sound stage, not a private home, he said.

Handwritten signature: *John Roup*